

Answer Key

After moving to a new town, nine-year-old Samantha and her twelve-year-old brother Robert had heard of an old toboggan slide from some of the other neighborhood children. They decided they needed to check (so, be, **it**) out. Supposedly, it was on the (swooping, **northern**, yourself) side of the peninsula in the (**middle**, honors, manage) of the lake behind their new (owls, head, **home**).

Paddling lazily, they headed across the (from, **lake**, full) in their canoe. Just as they (was, say, **had**) been told, there was the decrepit, (danger, **wooden**, corners)-framed toboggan slide. The slide itself (**was**, him, one) barely wide enough to fit a (flamingo, **toboggan**, neighbor). It left only a couple of (secure, **inches**, tower) to spare on either side before (albatross, sentiment, **adjoining**) a short, wooden sidewall about six (chosen, stamp, **inches**) in height that kept the toboggans (**from**, have, slide) falling off. Hundreds of steep steps (either, locate, **climbed**) the shoreline to the top of (new, **the**, was) slide. Looking down from the top, (of, to, **it**) was evident that the slide abruptly (clear, **ended**, great) approximately six feet above the water.

(Cloud, Flyer, **Since**) they didn't have a toboggan, they (disconnect, **improvised**, struggling) with a piece of cardboard. Robert (**went**, time, fair) first and flew down the slide. (As, **He**, By) used his feet against the side (tough, **rails**, black) to stop the contraption before catapulting (gorgeous, blizzard, **himself**) into the muddy water below. Samantha (foul, very, **went**) next but her momentum was too (**great**, flies, honor) and she shot off the edge (your, have, **into**) the water. Samantha's immediate thought after (handsome, **bobbing**, profile) to the surface was "Blood-suckers!" (Saw, Fly, **Her**) second thought was, "This is all (twister, scrape, **Robert's**) fault!" She frantically climbed out of (you, **the**, way) water and ripped off her socks (run, **and**, owl) shoes to look for blood sucking (**worms**, eagle, check). After finding none, but fearing they (cold, wing, **were**) still lurking in her shoes, she (distant, **refused**, always) to put them back on.

"Put (long, cold, **your**) shoes on," Robert insisted. "Put your (loved, **shoes**, wind) on or you'll never be able (**to**, or, up) walk back to the canoe." Samantha (manage, **refused**, backpack). Finally, either from a desire to (do, **be**, no) gallant or from fear of repercussions (feet, wind, **from**) their parents, Robert picked up Samantha. (On, Am, **He**) carried her to the canoe and (**quickly**, politics, pelican) paddled home. After a steamy bath (try, out, **and**) the reassurance that there weren't any (sulky, **blood**, alley)-sucking worms hidden anywhere, Samantha told (all, low, **the**) story to their parents with a (**great**, fear, spoon) deal of enthusiasm. She forgot entirely (warm, **that**, mail) she had originally blamed Robert for (pedestrian, **everything**, supplement) and made him the hero of (the, air, **her**) story.

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Answer Key

Albert the albatross loved soaring through the air. He adored swooping high on warm, (**thermal**, kneeling, windows) vents and swooping low on cold, (high, **polar**, empty) winds. He also managed to deliver (pool, down, **mail**) while performing all of those great (would, **feats**, often).

Albert was responsible for delivering all (as, by, **of**) his mail on time and always (**felt**, also, only) obligated to do so. He would (one, was, **fly**) in fair or foul weather and (pitcher, **through**, statue) clear or cloudy skies. He flew (ice, but, **the**) Arctic run during December and proved (perform, **himself**, thought) to be a very daring and (**courageous**, intrigued, mesmerizing) flyer.

At the Mount Everest Central (plaza, **Post**, heads) Office where Albert worked, there were (window, **rumors**, quietly) about a new postage stamp with (be, no, **a**) picture of Albert's handsome profile on (so, me, **it**). Albert was always very humble when (**people**, covered, around) congratulated him on this honor.

"Thank (but, she, **you**) for your kind sentiments," he would (was, her, **say**). "However, I think Eddie the eagle, (lifted, **should**, horizon) have the honors. He flies the (fantastic, **hurricane**, overlook) run from Houston to Tallahassee and (**braves**, stone, dream) the Gulf of Mexico."

As Albert (**was**, air, all) packing his backpack full of letters (buildings, **addressed**, gracefully) to Nome, Alaska and Alberta, Canada, (December, discard, **Francine**) the flamingo cornered him on the (certain, **loading**, sleepy) docks.

"You're so brave, Al," Francine (came, **said**, only) as she clacked her long, black (**beak**, city, below) at Albert. "You take such risks (one, was, **and**) put yourself in such great danger. (As, I, To) just saw the stamp and it's (fountain, twilight, **gorgeous**)."

"Thank you, Franny," Albert replied, as (to, **he**, up) crammed more first-class mail into (**his**, she, ice) backpack. "I think they should have (instead, tornado, **chosen**) Gretta the great horned owl. She's (frozen, **winged**, edges) through tougher scrapes than I have. (Snow, Pan, **She**) flies the twister run down the (woman, **length**, ledges) of tornado alley, all the way (stroller, **through**, discard) Indiana, Kansas, and Illinois." Albert shook (ice, **his**, now) head. "She's one brave gal."

Albert (stone, nail, **made**) sure his pack was secure. He (flamingo, pouring, **checked**) and double-checked his landing gear. (**He**, It, For) also made sure to check his (gal, bye, **two**)-way radio with the control tower (postage, broken, **located**) on a distant peak in the (sukiyaki, **Himalayas**, acrylics).

Then, with one flap of his (pierce, **great**, plaid) albatross wings, he was in the (**air**, old, sew) and flying over the ice and (pie, now, **the**) snow. He was flying through the (phantom,

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middle, ability) of the worst blizzard to trample (too, car, **the**) Midwest in years. Albert was in (low, **his**, bay) element.

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middle, ability) of the worst blizzard to trample **(too, car, the)** Midwest in years. Albert was in **(low, his, bay)** element.

Answer Key

Alice lived in a tiny apartment in a large city. Her small apartment was one of (join, with, **many**) apartments crammed into a vast apartment (capable, **building**, browsed). Alice's apartment was on the tenth (didn't, years, **floor**) and it had only two windows. (Was, **One**, How) window was in the living room (**looking**, safari, strong) down at the street and the (large, **other**, loads) was in Alice's bedroom overlooking a (update, skulk, **square**) with a fountain.

On the edge (as, **of**, by) the fountain was a statue of (so, to, **a**) beautiful woman pouring water into a (native, herds, **small**) pool from a pitcher. Alice was (languages, **intrigued**, building) by the ice cold water that (supply, zebra, **poured**) from the pitcher on hot summer (soon, **days**, come).

In the winter, the fountain was (**shut**, knew, that) off. The water left in the (four, were, **pool**) would turn to ice and would (leader, **create**, deposit) a reflection of the woman holding (can, now, **her**) empty pitcher. December often arrived with (if, **a**, we) blizzard of snow and slush that (**piled**, strong, quick) up in the plaza and covered (pry, not, **the**) fountain and statue. When Alice looked (ride, them, **down**) at the fountain during the winter (prepare, **season**, travel), she couldn't help but feel sorry (owl, **for**, true) the woman made of stone.

During (**one**, ice, try) winter's twilight in the middle of (Republic, companion, **January**), Alice rolled over in her sleep (not, **and**, own) woke suddenly. Alice thought she was (birds, often, **still**) dreaming as a mesmerizing chorus of (grass, meter, **music**) came from somewhere outside. She slipped (load, **from**, upon) her bed and tiptoed to the (**window**, colors, country) as quietly as possible.

Alice decided (am, in, **to**) check on the sleeping statue. She (update, beauty, **wanted**) to make certain everything was okay (so, **in**, up) the plaza below. A fantastic sight (national, **greeted**, stampede) Alice as she peered out her (**frosty**, custom, capable) window.

The woman made of stone (him, **was**, can) no longer kneeling at the edge (be, no, **of**) the pool holding her pitcher. Instead, (for, **she**, why) was strolling gracefully around the ledge (to, as, **of**) the fountain. As she strolled, she tipped (than, **back**, lion) her head and lifted her hands (us, so, **to**) the falling snow.

Alice watched the (**woman**, arrive, city) twirl and spin in the winter (she, old, **air**) all through the night. Slowly, dawn (language, grandson, **appeared**) behind the tall city buildings in (her, **the**, see) horizon. Then, with a sigh, the (result, **woman**, more) retrieved her discarded pitcher and knelt (want, much, **once**) again on the edge of the (photograph, **fountain's**, savannah) frozen pool.

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Answer Key

Angela Creek wanted to join her grandson on his African safari. Her grandson, Jack, needed someone to (suffer, **travel**, photo) to Africa with him to help (visit, stiff, **carry**) his photo equipment and Angela strongly (concern, **believed**, clouding) she needed to join him. Angela (the, eye, **was**) seventy-seven years old and believed (**that**, carry, paid) everyone should get a chance to (new, too, **see**) the world.

Jack Creek didn't have (me, **a**, to) problem with his grandmother joining him (if, we, **on**) his photo expedition to Ghana. However, (saw, **he**, to) didn't want her to overextend herself (no, can, **or**) become a nuisance to him. Jack knew (are, **his**, for) grandmother was more capable of causing (go, it, **a**) stampede of zebra or creeping up (do, **on**, of) a pride of lions than tiring (**from**, cure, many) too much sun or excitement.

Angela (shortly, **prepared**, infusion) for her trip by going to (for, now, **the**) library. She browsed computer files and (dizzying, **ordered**, special) as many books on Africa, Ghana, (discovered, treatment, **savannahs**), and safaris as she possibly could. (Get, Knew, **She**) gathered information from several travel books (many, of, **and**) journals. She cautioned her grandson against (miracle, **drinking**, inquired) the water and also made sure (that, **they**, man) both were updated in their inoculations.

(**As**, To, By) a result of her studies, Angela (try, ago, **was**) prepared when they arrived in the (shortly, bottles, **capital**) city of Ghana two weeks later. (But, **Her**, Near) mind was loaded with information about (of, most, **the**) country's customs, languages, and climate.

Angela (made, them, **knew**) that the official language of the (crowding, **Republic**, sensitive) of Ghana was English, but that (sent, **many**, what) indigenous languages were still spoken there. (Energy, Water, **Angela**) was aware that the literacy rate (**in**, as, be) Ghana was sixty-four percent. She (inquire, **shocked**, baskets) her grandson outside the airport when (all, **she**, new) spoke a few words to their (ended, costly, **safari**) tour leader in his native tongue. (Can, See, **The**) result was a quicker ride to (**their**, nobody, herbs) hotel and a strong back to (still, know, **help**) them deposit their supplies in their (twig, **rooms**, sent).

While her grandson took his photographs (how, too, **for**) National Geographic, Angela immersed herself in (her, **the**, soon) beauty of the savannah. She observed (my, **a**, no) pride of lions two hundred meters (**from**, came, above) their base camp as it skulked (lavender, finally, **through**) the tall grass. She also took (new, **her**, car) own photos of the herds of (level, willow, **zebra**) and colorful birds. Angela proved to (as, **be**, by) an excellent traveling companion for her (miracle, **grandson**, calcium).

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Answer Key

By the time I paid my first visit to the Herbal Shop on Bay Street, I was suffering from a number of ailments. My high fever, nausea, irritability, stiff (**neck**, both, band), and scratchy throat were the least (it, no, **of**) my worries. I was mainly concerned (such, **with**, soft) the black splotches that were clouding (in, be, **my**) vision and the strange growth of (where, **green**, fresh) fungus that had sprouted behind my (**ears**, form, grow).

I hesitantly staggered through the doors (do, **of**, is) the shop and proceeded to knock (body, flat, **down**) a pyramid of pretty crystal bottles (some, **with**, live) my elbow. I sent them crashing (be, up, **to**) the ceramic floor and provoked a (**headache**, substance, rewarding) directly between my eyes.

Since there (consider, obscurity, **appeared**) to be nobody manning the shop, (as, **I**, to) had to tidy up the clutter (allow, barrier, **myself**). I neatly tucked the broken bottles, (some, **bits**, knew) of herbs, and twigs in the (designs, wander, **garbage**) behind the counter, and was finally (foot, **free**, even) to survey the cloudy bottles and (considered, **mysterious**, collector) vials crowding the shelves of the (have, rich, **shop**). I didn't really know what I (**was**, are, new) looking for, but I continued in (to, **my**, be) explorations and assumed someone would be (off, **out**, can) to assist me shortly.

I discovered (protective, information, **thousands**) of cures! Packets of lavender to (creature, because, **relieve**) tension and infusions of spearmint and (permissible, **peppermint**, mysterious) to improve digestion. Bundles of rosehips (the, **for**, eye) calcium and rosemary for good fortune.

"(I'll, One, Two) purchase this and this and this," (be, no, **I**) thought to myself as I filled (on, **my**, to) arms and made dizzying circles around (are, can, **the**) dark room.

I wanted to try (people, **ginseng**, grottos) for my sluggish energy level, milkweed (**pods**, seen, what) for my sensitive skin, and a (creature, listener, **special**) tea made out of willow bark (bye, **for**, not) my migraines. I was in the (spiral, others, **middle**) of filling my third basket when (as, **I**, be) noticed a small man watching me (**from**, flat, also) behind the counter.

"I'll take all (be, **of**, on) these," I told the small man. (As, To, **I**) couldn't wait to get out of (**there**, tight, queen) and start sampling all of my (floor, **newly**, lives) discovered miracle treatments.

The small man (human, loss, **took**) one look at me and spoke (**three**, other, conch) words, three words that put me (deep, **back**, list) on the road to good health (sew, **and**, man) ended the first of many costly (**visits**, snail, sought) to the Herbal Shop.

"Cash or (called, animal, **charge**)?" he inquired as I quickly pulled (to, no, **a**) charge card from my wallet.

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Answer Key

Collecting seashells can be rewarding for both professional and amateur collectors. Before starting a seashell collection, it (by, no, **is**) always important for any collector to (eighth, **gather**, quick) information on where the wonderful shells (even, mane, **come**) from.

Seashells come from animals that (though, **belong**, player) to a species called mollusks. Snails, (**slugs**, ball, plate), and other sea animals such as (develop, error, **whelks**), cockles, clams, mussels, octopuses, and squid (now, **are**, come) also considered to be mollusks. These (several, spirit, **animals**) have very different sizes and shapes, (was, **but**, too) all of them have soft bodies. (**Almost**, Chilly, Throws) all of them have shells.

Insects (knew, beat, **have**) legs with joints, but mollusks move (second, **around**, matter) on a large, flat muscle called (by, to, **a**) foot. Most mollusks live in the (her, **sea**, now), but some mollusks such as fresh (**water**, pitch, along) snails and slugs do not.

One (first, **thing**, news) all mollusks have in common is (do, **a**, be) large, protective barrier around the main (year, wave, **part**) of their bodies. The barrier is (earlier, great, **called**) a mantle. In many mollusks, the (**mantle**, seemed, errors) secretes a liquid, mineral-rich, shell- (perfectly, exception, **building**) substance specially designed to allow a (field, **shell**, throw) of armor to form. This substance (team, **also**, onto) allows the shell to expand as (**the**, two, why) jelly-soft body of the mollusk (motion, playing, **expands**). Some shells can form to be (between, **circular**, majority) and flat, while others are wound (up, of, **in**) a tight spiral. Other shells can (remember, **radiate**, practice) a fan-like shape.

Most of (**the**, had, flu) seashells that catch the attention of (enlargement, **collectors**, turquoise) began as the protective homes on (one, saw, **the**) back of one of the most (librarian, **abundant**, exterior) creatures in the ocean, the sea (**snail**, crack, among). Countless sea snails are never seen (as, to, **by**) human eyes because they live out (today, score, **their**) lives in complete obscurity in deep (three, **ocean**, where) grottos.

Among the shells most sought (**after**, base, coming) by collectors is the conch. The (tough, loose, **conch**) is also one of the largest (now, wet, **sea**) snails wandering the ocean floors. The (defense, **coasts**, armor) of Florida are the stomping grounds (an, **of**, be) the queen conch. A queen conch's (**shell**, panic, waved) can grow to be the size (up, in, **of**) a football and is prized for (can, **its**, such) glossy sheen, delicate patterns, and unbelievable (prized, letter, **colors**). Many people believe a conch shell (from, **held**, pray) to a listener's ear can transmit (**the**, was, how) sound of the ocean, even if (loss, **the**, can) listener is standing in the middle (to, **of**, in) land-locked Kansas.

Collecting seashells can be rewarding for both professional and amateur collectors. Before starting a seashell collection, it **(by, no, is)** always important for any collector to **(eighth, gather, quick)** information on where the wonderful shells **(even, mane, come)** from.

Seashells come from animals that **(though, belong, player)** to a species called mollusks. Snails, **(slugs, ball, plate)**, and other sea animals such as **(develop, error, whelks)**, cockles, clams, mussels, octopuses, and squid **(now, are, come)** also considered to be mollusks. These **(several, spirit, animals)** have very different sizes and shapes, **(was, but, too)** all of them have soft bodies. **(Almost, Chilly, Throws)** all of them have shells.

Insects **(knew, beat, have)** legs with joints, but mollusks move **(second, around, matter)** on a large, flat muscle called **(by, to, a)** foot. Most mollusks live in the **(her, sea, now)**, but some mollusks such as fresh **(water, pitch, along)** snails and slugs do not.

One **(first, thing, news)** all mollusks have in common is **(do, a, be)** large, protective barrier around the main **(year, wave, part)** of their bodies. The barrier is **(earlier, great, called)** a mantle. In many mollusks, the **(mantle, seemed, errors)** secretes a liquid, mineral-rich, shell-**(perfectly, exception, building)** substance specially designed to allow a **(field, shell, throw)** of armor to form. This substance **(team, also, onto)** allows the shell to expand as **(the, two, why)** jelly-soft body of the mollusk **(motion, playing, expands)**. Some shells can form to be **(between, circular, majority)** and flat, while others are wound **(up, of, in)** a tight spiral. Other shells can **(remember, radiate, practice)** a fan-like shape.

Most of **(the, had, flu)** seashells that catch the attention of **(enlargement, collectors, turquoise)** began as the protective homes on **(one, saw, the)** back of one of the most **(librarian, abundant, exterior)** creatures in the ocean, the sea **(snail, crack, among)**. Countless sea snails are never seen **(as, to, by)** human eyes because they live out **(today, score, their)** lives in complete obscurity in deep **(three, ocean, where)** grottos.

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Answer Key

Even though it was the end of May, the sky was overcast and there was a chill in the air. The girls' softball team quickly ran (was, her, **out**) onto the field. The Middleton Braves' (news, **team**, more) spirit was very high. The team (but, one, **was**) playing their archrivals, the Deltown Panthers, (who, **the**, saw) only team to beat them all (**season**, voices, longer). If the Braves won today, they (there, **would**, lesson) tie for the conference championship. That (black, **would**, master) be a great achievement considering the (bringing, teacher, **varsity**) team was made up of eighth (use, but, **and**) ninth graders.

Miriam ran out to (**her**, now, use) position at shortstop before the game (somehow, overcast, **started**) and took several practice throws to (tears, **first**, began) base to try and eliminate the (transaction, enlargement, **butterflies**) in her stomach. She knew Deltown (vet, **was**, end) good; they'd been conference champions for (one, **the**, out) last four years. However, Miriam remembered (his, eye, **the**) Braves had lost to them by (with, them, **only**) two runs earlier in the season (**and**, the, all) she knew they could beat them (too, **now**, her).

The butterflies did not leave Miriam's (himself, **stomach**, managed) throughout the early innings of the (when, huge, **game**). Both teams were playing exceptionally well (knew, came, **with**) strong pitching and tough defense. With (**every**, visit, store) crack of a Panther player's bat, (family, **Miriam**, display) was on edge. The Braves couldn't (living, **afford**, lesson) to let someone on base because (in, as, **of**) an error, and Miriam knew the (applause, sporting, **majority**) of balls would be coming her (**way**, the, her).

Finally it was the bottom of (was, him, **the**) seventh with the score tied at (large, upset, **three**) runs each. The Panther fans were (be, **in**, of) a panic as the Braves came (in, **up**, my) for their last at bat. The (marker, panic, **Braves**) fans were excited. The fans had (audition, sprinkle, **watched**) their team develop into champion material (mind, **over**, play) the past two years, and now (dog, **the**, how) team had a chance to prove (**it**, up, do).

It was now Miriam's turn to (too, now, **bat**). There were runners on first and (moment, **second**, slowly) and the team had only one (how, bus, **out**). All Miriam had to do was (when, **get**, low) a base hit to score the (**winning**, bottom, maintain) run. As the pitch flew over (**the**, wet, near) plate, Miriam swung her bat. Suddenly, (comforted, **everything**, impending) seemed to go into slow motion. (Her, **The**, Saw) ball went perfectly into the gap (exploded, memory, **between**) the first and second bases. The (diapers, heart, **runner**) on second was being waved home (but, **and**, new) the crowd was on their feet. (Happy, **They'd**, Down) done it! As Miriam stepped solidly (**on**, by, so) first base, she realized she no (score, parent, **longer**) had a stomach full of butterflies.

Even though it was the end of May, the sky was overcast and there was a chill in the air. The girls' softball team quickly ran **(was, her, out)** onto the field. The Middleton Braves' **(news, team, more)** spirit was very high. The team **(but, one, was)** playing their archrivals, the Deltown Panthers, **(who, the, saw)** only team to beat them all **(season, voices, longer)**. If the Braves won today, they **(there, would, lesson)** tie for the conference championship. That **(black, would, master)** be a great achievement considering the **(bringing, teacher, varsity)** team was made up of eighth **(use, but, and)** ninth graders.

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Answer Key

Evening was a thirteen-year-old black Labrador retriever, but her canine years were comparable to ninety-one human years. This black Lab used to bounce (of, **up**, so) as her master, Mark, bounded through (sew, how, **the**) door, but now Mark heard only (**the**, for, him) loud thump of her tail, and (play, near, **only**) if she happened to wake up. (Transmission, **Nevertheless**, Experimental), Mark was devastated to learn from (mid, cry, **the**) vet that there was terrible news (buy, **for**, too) his favorite companion. Evening's time had (**come**, huge, also) to an end, and there was (climbed, **nothing**, bounce) more the vet could medically accomplish. "(Location, **Evening**, Satisfy) is no longer comfortable. We've scheduled (he, to, **an**) appointment for Friday afternoon," said his (October, nothing, **parents**) with a tremor in their voices.

(**Friday**, Native, Evening) was the all school talent show (had, was, **and**) the excitement of the upcoming summer (by, **was**, that) surpassed by the show's entertainment. Most (to, on, **of**) the students scrambled for the seats (stockade, **closest**, complete) to the stage, but Mark found (**a**, be, us) private, back row chair.

One of (you, all, **the**) opening acts was a trio of (careful, hitting, **seventh**) graders sporting large diapers and oversized (wind, **bibs**, can) presenting an original skit of life (be, **in**, to) daycare. For Mark, it was a (flagstaff, commanded, **flashback**) to a framed picture of himself (**as**, on, to) a toddler running through the sprinkler (structure, provides, **followed**) by Evening with a rubber ball (of, **in**, we) her mouth. Suddenly Mark's mind was (completed, voyageurs, **wandering**), lost in memories. Through his sadness, (as, do, **he**) felt a smile on his face, (who, can, **but**) felt heaviness in his heart. Over (now, **the**, why) years, Evening had taught Mark many (**valuable**, prowling, invaded) lessons about love, friendship, and the (pondering, **happiness**, dissimilar) of living.

As the crowd exploded (**with**, dial, away) applause, Mark rejoined the moment with (pendulum, desirable, **Evening's**) impending death in his mind bringing (stare, **tears**, plaza) to his eyes. He inhaled slowly, (device, **hoping**, inflate) to maintain control but when he (enemies, **blinked**, armload), a huge tear rolled down his (**cheek**, sturdy, after). As he wiped it with the (love, room, **back**) of his hand, he felt a (winter, **gentle**, sleeps) touch on his shoulder. "Are you (canoe, trade, **upset**) you didn't make the auditions, Mark?" (gates, **asked**, want) Mrs. Olson, his homeroom teacher. Somehow (**Mark**, tall, fire) managed to shake his head and (pleased, opinion, **quietly**) blurt out what was troubling him.

"(All, **I'm**, No) so sorry to hear that, Mark," (let, sow, **she**) comforted. "I know how a dog (one, **can**, too) be a part of the family. (Know, While, **Your**) talent was making your dog feel (vantage, fishing, **special**) and happy. You can't display that (as, **on**, if) stage but in my book, it (still, **makes**, troop) you a winner."

Evening was a thirteen-year-old black Labrador retriever, but her canine years were comparable to ninety-one human years. This black Lab used to bounce **(of, up, so)** as her master, Mark, bounded through **(sew, how, the)** door, but now Mark heard only **(the, for, him)** loud thump of her tail, and **(play, near, only)** if she happened to wake up. **(Transmission, Nevertheless, Experimental)**, Mark was devastated to learn from **(mid, cry, the)** vet that there was terrible news **(buy, for, too)** his favorite companion. Evening's time had **(come, huge, also)** to an end, and there was **(climbed, nothing, bounce)** more the vet could medically accomplish. **"(Location, Evening, Satisfy)** is no longer comfortable. We've scheduled **(he, to, an)** appointment for Friday afternoon," said his **(October, nothing, parents)** with a tremor in their voices.

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Answer Key

From the birch-bark canoe, Joseph Anthony scanned the banks of the Serpentine River. His voyageurs paddled hard and fast (**through**, scanned, observe) the water, so he had to (long, **make**, mice) his observations quickly. Finding a location (of, fast, **for**) his wintering post was an important (paddled, **decision**, through), one that could mean success or (**failure**, canoes, quickly) for his fur-trading mission.

Prior (by, as, **to**) his mission, Anthony met and stayed (take, live, **with**) native Chippewa leaders for two days. (Was, **The**, She) native leaders assured him the region (had, **was**, out) excellent.

"The land is rich with (they, trap, **game**) and food," they had said. "The (each, **furs**, into) are also very plentiful."

Judging by (how, eat, **the**) looks of the area, Anthony believed (up, **he**, to) had been told the truth. He (**spied**, rich, fast) a steep bank through the towering (make, **white**, days) pines. He commanded his voyageurs, "Put (all, bit, **the**) canoe in there, by that big (find, **rock**, only)."

Anthony scrambled out of the canoe (boy, her, **and**) climbed a tall, rocky ridge. He (native, believe, **eagerly**) surveyed the land and river from (eye, **the**, big) vantage point. Once the trees were (survey, **cleared**, mission), the men would have a good (**view**, from, wall) of the river and an excellent (leaders, **location**, voyageur) for fishing. The Indian camp behind (tiny, were, **them**) could provide food and other items (was, **for**, lay) trade. Satisfied with the location, Anthony (provide, towering, **ordered**) his men to start building their (**post**, mice, both).

Soon the October air rang with (bed, now, **the**) thud of axes hitting tree trunks. (How, **The**, Had) voyageurs toppled pine tree after pine (high, heel, **tree**), carefully clearing the overlook. Using the (made, **wood**, well) they had cleared from the overlook, (**they**, both, near) erected a log structure with six (**connecting**, locations, commanded) rooms for sleeping quarters, storage, and (region, ridges, **trading**). When the rooms were completed, the (sleeping, Chippewa, **voyageurs**) built a stockade of upright logs (observation, **surrounding**, throughout) a row house. Lastly, they built (fall, **huge**, back) gates that could be closed against (**winter**, games, rocky) winds, invading enemies, or prowling animals.

(Up, No, **In**) mid November, Anthony climbed to the (connecting, **observation**, Serpentine) platform to inspect the completed work. (View, With, **While**) he watched, smoke curled from the (failure, **chimneys**, platform) of the sturdy post as voyageurs (survey, **bustled**, satisfy) about with armloads of firewood. Indians (**entered**, topple, connect) the stockade carrying food or furs (now, **and**, buy) left carrying traded goods. Anthony was (find, **very**, down) pleased as he watched the flag (be, so, **of**) the Great Northern Fur Company

Answer Key

flying (looks, rang, **from**) its newly erected flagstaff. In Anthony's (overlook, enemies, **opinion**), the flag represented the company, his (off, was, **men**), and all of their tiring efforts.

From the birch-bark canoe, Joseph Anthony scanned the banks of the Serpentine River. His voyageurs paddled hard and fast (**through, scanned, observe**) the water, so he had to (**long, make, mice**) his observations quickly. Finding a location (**of, fast, for**) his wintering post was an important (**paddled, decision, through**), one that could mean success or (**failure, canoes, quickly**) for his fur-trading mission.

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(overlook, enemies, opinion), the flag represented the company, his **(off, was, men)**, and all of their tiring efforts.

Answer Key

It didn't take long for Sandy to realize the mice living in the walls of her new home were not normal. She couldn't understand how the mice (always, having, **eluded**) the traps she set out each (being, press, **night**), or how they managed to eat (white, **every**, gives) bit of the peanut butter she (balance, monkeys, **smeared**) on the trap's trigger mechanisms without (**getting**, happens, balance) hurt. She was puzzled by the (get, him, **way**) they magically got themselves into her (picture, **sealed**, memory) food containers. They always gobbled up (his, out, **the**) contents and somehow closed the containers (lions, shout, **again**) without making the slightest sound.

One (**afternoon**, cafeteria, sleeping), she came home from the shopping (time, face, **mall**) to find one of the mice (gathered, amongst, **watching**) her from the entryway chandelier. The (behind, **mouse**, python) had absolutely no way to get (as, **up**, to) to the chandelier unless it had (appears, **climbed**, camera) the wall. The only explanation was (just, **that**, vine) the mouse defied gravity and crawled (school, became, **across**) the ceiling!

Sandy couldn't help but (though, growing, **notice**) that the mouse staring intelligently down (**at**, up, of) her from the chandelier was wearing (by, no, **a**) very tiny, very neatly stitched sweater (how, too, **and**) cowboy hat. Considering what she had (rain, **just**, high) seen, she expected the mouse to (falls, **speak**, orange) to her, but instead it disappeared (**into**, now, idea) thin air. That moment was a (kingdom, **turning**, swoops) point for Sandy.

"Oh, boy," she (sort, fine, **said**) in disbelief. She could hardly believe (low, **her**, can) eyes.

That night, Sandy told her (balance, gathered, **husband**) not to set anymore mousetraps. All (**night**, faces, stool) long she listened to the mice (worried, **running**, himself) and frolicking within the walls. As (bat, **she**, kid) lay in her bed, she saw (to, on, **a**) couple of them whizzing across the (snicker, backdrop, **hardwood**) floor. They were both wearing dresses (down, **and**, him) high heels and were carrying on (**a**, am, so) conversation about the neighbor's cat in (line, **high**, hair)-pitched, squeaky English. Sandy was sure (was, **she**, soon) was dreaming.

Early the next morning, (be, if, **to**) Sandy's surprise, she found that the (appeared, **crossword**, photograph) puzzle she'd left half finished on (was, **her**, not) nightstand was completed and accurate. She (**also**, rain, here) noticed that her checkbook was balanced, (are, you, **her**) broken watch was fixed, and the (manages, **button**, steady) that had fallen off her blouse (saw, how, **had**) been sewed back on.

However, after (swooped, **walking**, picture) through her kitchen, she noticed the (pirate, **cookies**, however) she made earlier in the week (meal, crate, **were**) missing from their

Answer Key

container, and the (squeak, brown, **bread**) she purchased yesterday from the market (**was**, can, ray) nothing but crumbs.

Still, Sandy couldn't (flash, upon, **help**) looking at the watch on her (finds, been, **wrist**) and wondering how the mice got (we, **to**, at) be so intelligent, well dressed, and (knocked, **helpful**, neatly).

It didn't take long for Sandy to realize the mice living in the walls of her new home were not normal. She couldn't understand how the mice **(always, having, eluded)** the traps she set out each **(being, press, night)**, or how they managed to eat **(white, every, gives)** bit of the peanut butter she **(balance, monkeys, smeared)** on the trap's trigger mechanisms without **(getting, happens, balance)** hurt. She was puzzled by the **(get, him, way)** they magically got themselves into her **(picture, sealed, memory)** food containers. They always gobbled up **(his, out, the)** contents and somehow closed the containers **(lions, shout, again)** without making the slightest sound.

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However, after **(swooped, walking, picture)** through her kitchen, she noticed the **(pirate, cookies, however)** she made earlier in the week **(meal, crate, were)** missing from their

container, and the **(squeak, brown, bread)** she purchased yesterday from the market **(was, can, ray)** nothing but crumbs.

Still, Sandy couldn't **(flash, upon, help)** looking at the watch on her **(finds, been, wrist)** and wondering how the mice got **(we, to, at)** be so intelligent, well dressed, and **(knocked, helpful, neatly)**.

Answer Key

Jamie always hates having his picture taken because of his face full of freckles and wild red hair that can never be tamed. He thinks he looks funny in (his, for, **any**) photograph, but school pictures always seem (as, **to**, or) turn out to be the worst (he, to, **of**) all.

The photographer of last year's (result, **school**, turned) pictures used a red backdrop and (**the**, one, was) only things that appeared on Jamie's (daytime, **pictures**, correct) were his white teeth and bright (tried, **green**, error) eyes.

Jamie already knows this year's (factor, pardon, **school**) pictures aren't going to be any (wedging, humid, **better**) than his pictures from last year. (**Apparently**, Reasoning, Atmosphere), the photographer brought an orange backdrop (winds, where, **today**) and Jamie can already hear some (four, **kids**, rain) snickering at him from the line (no, be, **of**) kids behind him.

Finally, it's finally (effect, **Jamie's**, swipe) turn. He sits down on the (**stool**, could, listen) and gives the photographer a tiny (angry, watch, **smile**). The only thing he wants to (be, **do**, up) is get the picture taken and (all, **get**, you) back to class. However, that's not (**what**, blue, were) happens as the photographer presses the (direct, **button**, tiniest) to take Jamie's picture. One moment (those, **Jamie**, Lewis) is sitting on the stool, and (but, you, **the**) next he is being sucked into (over, **the**, us) camera's memory.

With a gasp, Jamie (**lands**, shown, built) in the middle of a dusty (telephone, attempt, **savannah**). The photographer must have been to (channel, seven, **Africa**) recently to take pictures of lions. (In, **As**, To) Jamie slowly rises to his feet, (to, **he**, or) finds he is amongst a pride (**of**, be, no) golden lions. The king of the (front, glory, **lions**) roars in Jamie's face and bats (if, **at**, us) him with his gigantic paws.

"Yikes! (Can, Done, **Get**) me out of here," Jamie shouts (prediction, **nervously**, transfer).

Suddenly, he is high in a (**tree**, have, with) in a rain forest. While reaching (buy, low, **for**) a branch to steady him, Jamie (irate, plain, **loses**) his balance and nearly falls to (not, **the**, map) ground. Luckily enough, he manages to (week, **grab**, hard) onto a hanging vine just in (**the**, red, one) nick of time.

"Take me back (by, **to**, we) the school cafeteria right now!" Jamie (terribly, **bellows**, opposite), swinging through the air as he (people, figured, **swoops**) past sleeping pythons and monkeys.

In (so, me, **a**) flash Jamie is back in school, (front, **lying**, lions) on the ground with his teacher (one, **and**, new) classmates gathered around him. All he (**can**, all, saw) see now are worried faces.

"What (determine, shouting, **happened**), Jamie? Are you okay?" his teacher (down, **asks**, from).

Answer Key

"Nothing. I'm fine," Jamie says as (to, as, **he**) pulls himself to his wobbly feet. "(Up, I, To) just decided I'm going to be (**a**, no, by) photographer when I grow up. The (come, dark, **idea**) sort of knocked me off my (high, **seat**, were)."

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Answer Key

Lewis Holton was the only meteorologist at Channel Seven News. As a result, whenever his predictions (**for**, mad, are) weekend weather or daytime highs were (scientist, introduce, **incorrect**), he was forced to listen to (friendship, earthworm, **complaints**) from everyone.

One week, Lewis predicted (no, **a**, be) beautiful, mild weekend with highs in (one, **the**, was) low seventies and clear, starry nights. (**The**, Met, Can) weekend weather turned out to be (news, stow, **just**) the opposite— it was nasty.

Maxine (house, **Smith**, feet), the Weather Department's secretary, was fed (he, by, **up**) with the people calling to complain (moment, **about**, quick) Lewis's bogus weekend forecast. She started (industrious, **transferring**, circumstance) the angry calls directly to Lewis's (woodcut, **office**, chemist).

Lewis attempted to ignore the telephone. (**At**, Do, In) the same time, he tried to (tour, high, **find**) the errors in his weekend forecast. (Can, **The**, Too) only thing Lewis could determine was (mile, tall, **that**) he'd been terribly wrong in his (responsible, satisfying, **predictions**). Apparently, a cold front had blown (in, up, me) Friday evening, wedging itself under the (were, long, **warm**) air that had been hanging over (try, **the**, for) city. It built up a row (as, by, **of**) thunderheads that resulted in a prolonged (riot, **bout**, held) of rain and thunder.

"It rained (wet, may, **all**) weekend!" an angry man shouted at (holes, **Lewis**, alot) over the telephone when he finally (place, mostly, **dared**) to answer it. "I watched your (cool, **show**, train) Friday evening and you assured us (**we'd**, over, two) have a glorious weekend."

"But I—," (**Lewis**, seven, back) attempted to explain his reasoning. He (dreary, **tried**, mood) to tell the man that the (running, glasses, **weather**) is determined by many factors. Atmospheric (watched, **pressure**, criminal), humidity, temperature, and winds are all (hardened, monster, **involved**) in forecasting the weather. The tiniest (**variation**, forecast, moderator) in any one of those things (not, **can**, pry) have an effect on resulting weather (versus, ceramic, **pattern**).

"Pardon me, if I could—," Lewis (minute, **tried**, recent) again. The irate man angrily hung (so, on, **up**) on him.

"You could have figured (**out**, dig, him) the dark skies yourself," Lewis said, (monster, dressed, **despite**) the fact that no one was (residence, strangest, **listening**), "if only you'd looked skyward."

That (grubby, **evening**, trouser), Lewis sighted the fact that cirrus (irate, **clouds**, little) were progressing across the skyline. "Cirrus (factor, **clouds**, project) are a sign of changeable weather (**to**, as, my) come," he squeaked. While he spoke, (by, no, **he**) gestured

Answer Key

to his weather map where (for, **he'd**, eye) plotted out high and low pressure (together, **systems**, resemble) in swipes of red and blue.

"(Were, Know, **That**) means watch out, because anything is (upright, **possible**, violets)."

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Answer Key

Mad scientists aren't as creepy as I always assumed they were. Before I moved into Black Manor (be, **in**, as) Windham, Massachusetts, I would have told (may, can, **you**) that mad scientists were the strangest (shop, **kind**, have) of people. I thought they were (still, bells, **moody**) and dreary and always trying to (**get**, for, low) you to drink one of their (works, before, **eerie**) green potions that could turn you (cash, **into**, late) a monster. Of course, that was (smooth, **before**, silver) I met Dr. Sheldon Gomez, or (**Sigmund**, sprinkle, travels), as all of his doctor friends (come, dawn, **call**) him.

I didn't realize Sigmund, or (am, to, **Dr.**) Gomez, was a mad scientist until (up, **we**, by) were first introduced. In all honesty, (a, **I**, it) thought Sigmund was a gravedigger. I (sugared, register, **quickly**) came to that conclusion when I (every, sugar, **found**) him digging up earthworms and snails (**in**, no, or) my dead garden. My imagination was (doctor, friends, **running**) wild as I watched Sigmund dig (is, **up**, on) shovels full of wet dirt. It (red, her, **was**) in that moment that I quickly (her, **ran**, one) back into my house and called (**the**, who, on) police.

Sigmund is a little over (makes, **three**, night) feet tall. In reality, that hardly (almond, twist, **likens**) him to the cartoon gravediggers of (if, **my**, we) youth who were tall and skinny (more, than, **with**) shifty black eyes. Before we first (his, too, **met**), I thought from the way he (off, she, **was**) dressed that he could also be (of, **a**, he) hardened criminal of some sort. I (schedule, **couldn't**, certain) help but notice his grubby trousers, (**flannel**, business, corner) shirt with lots of holes, and (front, loaves, **thick**) glasses held together with pieces of (camouflage, **electrical**, veterinary) tape.

After meeting Sigmund, it didn't (veto, **take**, much) long for me to realize that (us, **he**, so) wasn't a villain at all. The (**more**, went, call) I got to know him, the (upon, keep, **more**) he appeared to be an upright, (deliver, **decent**, thing) person with high moral values. It (whole, detail, **wasn't**) long into our friendship that he (applies, **invited**, purchase) me over to his place for (**a**, be, to) tour of his laboratories.

His residence, (we, **a**, of) slightly tilted Tudor mansion, was only (is, on, **a**) half a mile down the road (sits, than, **from**) mine. Perched on a hill of (adores, **winter**, locate)-bare maple and oak trees, his (ceremony, valuable, **dwelling**) resembled a haunted house so much (near, **that**, oak) I actually thought it was haunted. (**It**, By, No) had peaked towers and colonies of (need, love, **bats**) tucked under its eaves.

Sigmund showed (it, **me**, up) all of his pet projects. They (municipal, together, **included**) earthworms he was trying to make (circumstance, **fluorescent**, organization), potted violets he claimed were "intelligent", (**snails**, legal, silent) he'd found in my garden, and (sign, came, **bats**) that, under his care, were now (or, do, **as**) big as umbrellas.

Answer Key

Mad scientists aren't (tasty, **that**, also) bad at all. I can honestly (low, **say**, wet) that one of them is now (if, we, **my**) best friend.

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Mad scientists aren't (**tasty, that, also**) bad at all. I can honestly (**low, say, wet**) that one of them is now (**if, we, my**) best friend.

Answer Key

Madam Zelda's Sweet Shop is located on the corner of Sugar Street South and Spice Avenue in a busy neighborhood of lower Manhattan. This lucky location is great for (**business**, attention, slobber). The bells over the red doors (as, be, **of**) her shop are rarely still. There (by, **is**, on) hardly a moment when the chimes (no, am, **of**) her cash register aren't echoing throughout (sat, **her**, the) store.

Madam Zelda has mastered the (**process**, mission, support) of refining large bricks of base (catalogue, isolation, **chocolate**) imported straight from Brazil. With a (creature, **chemist's**, general) eye for measurement and a treat (bound, locate, **lover's**) sweet tooth, Zelda excitedly blends chocolate, (brick, **sugar**, named), vanilla, and milk. There's nothing she (space, still, **loves**) more than coaxing one of her (brick, dream, **sweet**) mixtures to a slow boil in (was, **one**, had) of the copper vats that sits (is, **on**, to) a back burner on her large (**stove**, world, greet). She adores decorating her small sweets (name, lawn, **with**) sprinkles and sugar. Sometimes she's up (leave, **until**, solar) dawn making taffy or dozens of (new, men, **her**) famous coffeecakes.

All of her hard (idea, **work**, dogs) and attention to detail has really (**paid**, they, deter) off for her. People come from (six, **all**, not) around to try a sample of (off, dog, **the**) smooth frostings and silver icings she (reading, **applies**, grabbed) to her cakes and cookies. They (finish, floats, **travel**) great distances to purchase her chocolate (**curls**, human, place), chunks of fudge, orange twists, and (amazing, research, **endless**) kinds of sugared fruits that she (missed, **neatly**, began) displays in her store's front window.

(Up, In, **It**) certainly isn't money that keeps Madam (Mars, **Zelda**, German) on her strict schedule. Oh, no, (**she**, get, low) does it for her customers. She (floats, command, **wouldn't**) dream of not finding the finest (charted, staring, **crystal**) sugar for her sugared almonds, or (complete, **melting**, another) the best brown sugars for peanut (greeting, **brittle**, euphoria) every Wednesday. She happily bakes a (decade, outer, **dozen**) loaves of her spiral cinnamon bread (saw, **for**, buy) the man who comes in every (poodle, reading, **Tuesday**) with his dog tucked under his (had, **arm**, yet). She carefully prepares a gallon of (**sweet**, idea, Martha) chocolate espresso for the group of (people, acting, **teenage**) schoolgirls who come in every weeknight. (Sat, **She**, Are) also makes bags of chocolate almonds (who, end, **and**) packets of chocolate rose leaves for (red, **the**, own) mailman who delivers her mail daily, (**in**, do, we) any kind of weather.

To Madam (month, group, **Zelda**), a smile is one of the (announce, **sweetest**, headline) things in life, and nothing makes (for, man, **her**) happier than sharing her tasty treats (came, **with**, told) everyone.

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Answer Key

Martha sat down at a table in the New York Public Library and began reading the morning's newspaper. The headlines of the New York (older, award, **Times**) immediately grabbed her attention. NASA announced (much, **that**, also) another planet had been discovered in (they, not, **our**) solar system and that the planet (abilities, **supported**, disappear) intelligent life.

This amazing announcement left (**Martha**, little, magic) light-headed and dizzy. She had (planet, **heard**, down) rumors of a new planet, but (get, buy, **the**) announcement of extraterrestrials was still a (argue, **shock**, meals). A planet that could support intelligent (with, hung, **life**) was far different from frozen bacteria (**growing**, miracle, witness) on rocks on Mars. NASA was (intelligent, guacamole, **describing**) creatures of an alien nature that (views, excel, **could**) possibly communicate with humans. The idea (jars, **made**, meal) Martha laugh out loud.

She opened (him, **the**, wet) newspaper again and started to reread (**the**, now, put) article she had just finished. No, (out, now, **she**) hadn't missed any major points anywhere. (Low, **The**, See) planet had not yet been named (end, all, **but**) NASA was already preparing to send (on, **a**, no) research team. Martha's dream was coming (**true**, over, herb).

Martha had been a scientist and (to, if, **an**) astronaut for well over a decade. (Chef, Keep, **She'd**) completed five missions, docked with a (cedar, **space**, label) station in orbit, and even floated (served, **around**, correct) in outer space while staring down (be, of, **at**) the hazy, blue-green planet Earth.

(Adobe, **After**, Space) a telephone call to NASA, she (sunlight, dessert, **learned**) that next week she was going (most, **into**, need) isolation with the rest of the men (**and**, for, saw) women who were charted to go (**on**, up, if) the space mission. At the end (is, **of**, am) the month she was going to (do, **be**, in) one of the lucky scientists rocketed (that, rack, **into**) space to collect data samples and (assisting, memories, **catalogue**) information. The excitement of her upcoming (**training**, instruct, gathered) and the new mission made her (certain, burrito, **anxious**) to leave. She was about to (when, **meet**, keep) with genuine extraterrestrials!

When she got (first, base, **home**), her dogs, a German shepherd named (was, new, **Sam**) and a poodle named Walter, were (fantastic, signature, **cavorting**) around on the lawn. When Martha (concert, **climbed**, society) out of the car, they bounded (shrimp, **across**, slogan) the yard and slobbered all over (**her**, did, too).

"Come on you guys, get off (by, am, **me**)!" Her command didn't deter the dogs. (View, **They**, Most) were almost acting as if they (with, hung, **knew**) she was going to blast off (us, **to**, an) a different world and not return (**for**, and, now) six months.

Answer Key

As Walter panted and (member, became, **looked**) up at her with euphoria, Martha (essential, **speculated**, convention) about how the aliens would greet (was, we'd, **her**). Of course, it didn't matter how (omen, **they**, plus) greeted her, she knew she would (**treasure**, severest, hesitate) the moment forever.

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She opened **(him, the, wet)** newspaper again and started to reread **(the, now, put)** article she had just finished. No, **(out, now, she)** hadn't missed any major points anywhere. **(Low, The, See)** planet had not yet been named **(end, all, but)** NASA was already preparing to send **(on, a, no)** research team. Martha's dream was coming **(true, over, herb)**.

Martha had been a scientist and **(to, if, an)** astronaut for well over a decade. **(Chef, Keep, She'd)** completed five missions, docked with a **(cedar, space, label)** station in orbit, and even floated **(served, around, correct)** in outer space while staring down **(be, of, at)** the hazy, blue-green planet Earth.

(Adobe, After, Space) a telephone call to NASA, she **(sunlight, dessert, learned)** that next week she was going **(most, into, need)** isolation with the rest of the men **(and, for, saw)** women who were charted to go **(on, up, if)** the space mission. At the end **(is, of, am)** the month she was going to **(do, be, in)** one of the lucky scientists rocketed **(that, rack, into)** space to collect data samples and **(assisting, memories, catalogue)** information. The excitement of her upcoming **(training, instruct, gathered)** and the new mission made her **(certain, burrito, anxious)** to leave. She was about to **(when, meet, keep)** with genuine extraterrestrials!

When she got **(first, base, home)**, her dogs, a German shepherd named **(was, new, Sam)** and a poodle named Walter, were **(fantastic, signature, cavorting)** around on the lawn. When Martha **(concert, climbed, society)** out of the car, they bounded **(shrimp, across, slogan)** the yard and slobbered all over **(her, did, too)**.

"Come on you guys, get off **(by, am, me)!**" Her command didn't deter the dogs. **(View, They, Most)** were almost acting as if they **(with, hung, knew)** she was going to blast off **(us, to, an)** a different world and not return **(for, and, now)** six months.

As Walter panted and **(member, became, looked)** up at her with euphoria, Martha **(essential, speculated, convention)** about how the aliens would greet **(was, we'd, her)**. Of course, it didn't matter how **(omen, they, plus)** greeted her, she knew she would **(treasure, severest, hesitate)** the moment forever.

Answer Key

Miguel is an award-winning chef at the Santa Rosa Hotel in Santa Rosa, New Mexico. Miguel's grandmother had taught him when (**he**, to, in) was a little boy that cooking (are, **was**, one) a form of magic. She had (most, **much**, none) faith in his abilities and knew (on, by, **he**) could excel as a great chef (be, so, **as**) he got older. Miguel's grandmother also (**believed**, average, summers) that when done correctly, good cooking (spend, amaze, **could**) fill the stomach and soothe the (some, excel, **soul**).

From his years of experience in (sanctuaries, **restaurants**, temperature) and cafes all over New Mexico, (decade, **Miguel**, arrive) had confirmed that his grandmother was (**right**, hills, wing). Miguel had witnessed bickering families shout (orange, vibrant, **across**) the table before being served. Then, (he, **as**, so) if it were a miracle, their (first, round, **anger**) would disappear as they ate his (planet, **dishes**, design). By the end of the meal, (**family**, expects, locate) members who had been arguing before (low, **the**, fir) meal were kind and compassionate to (and, the, **one**) another.

It had been Miguel's grandmother (can, **who**, not) instructed him in the art of (butterfly, **preparing**, thousand) mouthwatering dishes. Whenever Miguel prepared certain (**dishes**, bunch, before), he thought back to his grandmother's (delicate, viewed, **kitchen**) with its views of the mesas (owe, **and**, see) the desert. His memories of his (specifically, noticeable, **grandmother**) were the most vivid when he (stomach, **cooked**, thought) red bean burritos with fiery chili (**peppers**, quiver, slightly) and guacamole sauce. He could recall (day, **the**, fur) dried herbs that had hung from (buy, **the**, him) adobe and cedar ceiling of her (snapping, airborne, **kitchen**). He remembered how the jars of (hardy, track, **spices**) with their cracked yellow labels and (**unusual**, flurry, despite) names peeked out of every dark (insect, tracks, **corner**).

One of the first things Miguel's (occupational, **grandmother**, nonexistent) had taught him was that the (where, great, **herbs**) she used in her baking and (nonsense, **cooking**, handful) — the paprika, oregano, and dried chili (captain, control, **peppers**) didn't keep in direct sunlight. He (pride, legal, **spent**) many hours assisting her in constructing (**a**, or, no) special rack for her herbs and (shear, clique, **spices**). Making herb racks was the first (truly, viewed, **thing**) he did when he became the (play, **head**, drum) chef at the Santa Rosa Hotel.

(Located, **Miguel's**, Summers) assistant chefs had been flabbergasted by (**the**, men, new) collection of herbs and spices he (our, saw, **had**) gathered over the years. Especially rare (cool, **were**, above) the spices that he had to (nature, flashy, **travel**) into the dessert or overseas to (fashion, **collect**, trailer). Miguel knew the spices helped make (want, **his**, all) meals well, but it was his (organization, contaminated, **grandmother's**) inspiration that made them fantastic.

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Answer Key

Monarch butterflies are one of the most stunning and amazing butterfly species on the planet. These orange and black spotted beauties (train, below, **spend**) their summers in North America and (experts, **migrate**, helped) to the mountains of Mexico for (cat, for, **the**) winter.

It's because they can't survive (known, boast, **below**)-freezing temperatures that Monarch butterflies must (hearing, **migrate**, bristly). They can survive some snowfall, however, (**only**, long, play) as long as the temperatures are (from, most, **mild**) and the snow melts quickly.

One (to, **of**, be) the amazing facts about Monarch butterflies (so, on, **is**) that they migrate two thousand miles (rumor, **every**, start) fall. Two thousand miles is quite (**a**, no, up) distance for a little winged insect (busy, black, **that**) weighs less than a gram. Incredibly, (wet, **the**, dog) butterflies manage to flutter to Mexico (by, **in**, as) about two week's time. They average (melts, flock, **about**) fifty miles per day on their (**strenuous**, memorable, possessed) journey.

When the Monarchs arrive in (animal, Mooney, **Mexico**), they join hundreds and thousands of (tails, **other**, black) butterflies in special butterfly sanctuaries located (filthy, expert, **within**) the hills. The butterflies then cling (if, **to**, we) a particular type of fir tree (give, **that**, wash) grows in the area.

It really (**is**, of, so) an astonishing sight to hike up (be, on, **to**) the butterfly sanctuaries. The butterflies can (do, us, **be**) seen clinging to the fir trees (two, **like**, bare) a bunch of ripe, orange fruit. (It, **At**, To) first it is confusing. One expects to (was, can, **see**) butterflies, not fruit. However, after taking (on, **a**, if) closer look, one can see the (thick, hours, "**fruit**") quivering slightly. The slightest sound, like (by, **a**, or) branch snapping on the ground, can (**startle**, feather, peacock) the butterflies and send them airborne (we, **in**, by) a flurry of vibrant orange wings.

(Vanilla, Arrived, **Despite**) their delicate look, Monarch butterflies are (shudders, **actually**, terrible) very hardy and have awed and (oatmeal, delight, **stumped**) scientists for decades. These scientists have (has, **the**, saw) delicate job of tagging Monarchs butterflies (**to**, am, it) track the amber-winged insects on (owner, drove, **their**) long journey over the North American (unusually, **continent**, whispering). Tracking the butterflies has only served (as, of, **to**) amaze the scientists even more.

Monarch (perfection, **butterflies**, temperature) have always been viewed as delicate (**and**, buy, new) fragile, but the butterflies truly are (**little**, recall, larger) miracles with wings. It seems that (scrubs, **Mother**, squeal) Nature has designed them specifically to (walrus, **endure**, beauty) both the extremes of temperatures and (for, all, **the**) great distances the planet Earth has (younger, **forced**, plumage) them to fly over.

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Answer Key

In the field of geology, there isn't a scientist with more skill, determination or motivation than Dr. Isabel Rodriguez.

Dr. Rodriguez started her collection of rocks (countries, **at**, with) an early age. When she was (**a**, lecture, there) child, she would take rocks home (skill, of, **to**) her family's cattle ranch at the (imprint, **edge**, into) of the desert. As a grown (keen, eye, **woman**), she turned her childhood interest into (keen, the, **a**) career and now teaches geology to (up, treasures, **college**) students from the United States and (finding, **other**, with) countries. As a college instructor, she (young, **trains**, isn't) young men and women to be (**skilled**, of, she) geologists. She shows them how to (**read**, other, in) maps of major landforms and how (their, **to**, her) tell the difference between a diamond (is, whiz, **and**) a lump of glass. She provides (and, child, **her**) students knowledge they can use while (**looking**, desert, would) for rocks and fossils in the (**field**, scientist, she). For example, her students learn that (**the**, year, saying) Red Mountains in Colorado are tinted (this, **red**, to) because of iron compounds and that (**the**, old, was) best source for gems are rivers (**flowing**, career, with) from volcanoes.

One afternoon, as part (a, **of**, precious) her lecture, Dr. Rodriguez held up (**her**, childhood, at) pencil. "The graphite in the lead (a, as, **of**) this pencil is chemically identical to (men, held, **diamonds**)," she said. "But because they have (**different**, geology, her) crystal structures, they have very different (**physical**, find, frond) properties. You can write with graphite (**in**, a, new) the pencil, but it is basically (**worthless**, her, cattle). On the other hand, the diamond (**comes**, the, fossils) in a variety of colors and (or, **is**, the) priceless."

In the field, Dr. Rodriguez (graphite, at, **is**) a rock-finding whiz, amazing her (unusual, rocks, **students**) during their outings across the sun-(**baked**, women, at) desert. Although many fossils and semi-precious (than, **stones**, in) lie in plain view, they are (as, **clear**, collect) only to her keen eyes.

"An (early, **opal**, age) has a blue-green glow," she (students, digging, **tells**) her students as they walk across (her, on, **the**) desert. "When you find one, notice (a, **how**, in) it reflects sunlight."

Dr. Rodriguez is (**constantly**, her, from) digging up new treasures. Finding a (college, started, **million**)-year-old carbon imprint of a (her, **fern**, part) frond trapped in a sandstone wall (rock, this, **is**) not unusual for Dr. Rodriguez. On (one, she, **outings**) with her students, she is frequently (geology, stones, **heard**) saying, "This stone is amazing. Students, (not, on, **come**) and look at this find!"

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Answer Key

On a dark and stormy night, four shadowy figures made their way through the thick trees that shielded their ghostly torches from the wind gusting around them. Ever so slowly, the foursome traveled (**to**, be, as) their hidden grotto for another meeting (am, **of**, so) the Dead Writer's Society.

After they (inspire, **arrived**, between), Sam slammed a gavel made of (block, leave, **solid**) oak onto an old, dead tree (guard, walls, **stump**) and called the meeting to order. (**Secretary**, Invigorate, Sculpture) Sam opened the meeting in his (story, catch, **usual**) manner.

"We now begin yet another (concrete, **tiresome**, visitors) meeting of the minds. I call (iron, **upon**, that) anyone who wishes to chit-chat (leave, after, **about**) books, philosophy, free thought, or sports (of, **to**, in) speak freely. This is an open (works, color, **forum**) and members may speak about anything (**relevant**, explain, learning) that comes to mind." Sam draped (for, low, **his**) garments around himself and sat upon (how, **the**, buy) lower limb of a leafless elm.

(Will, Many, **Judd**), the society's keeper of times, rose (from, **with**, came) the moon looming behind him. Judd (**had**, dog, saw) chosen his seat specifically for this (tapestry, painting, **purpose**). The October moon occasionally broke through (was, **the**, new) pale clouds that covered the night (are, all, **sky**) and created a chillingly silhouetted effect.

(Rise, **Judd**, Reel) cleared the phlegm from his throat (**and**, can, too) hoarsely proclaimed, "I bring up the (galleries, display, **question**) of Shakespeare and whether the society (proclaim, ceramic, **affirms**) or denies that he is the (walk, **best**, pale) writer ever. It behooves the society (by, **to**, is) determine a stance in said matter."

(**The**, Far, May) society members felt strongly about this (dragon, **subject**, against), having spent many evenings debating the (behind, **merits**, carve) of the English playwright. Sam hooted (**like**, once, fang) an owl and proclaimed, "I feel (year, **that**, worn) Shakespeare is certainly one of the (than, **best**, more) writers ever."

In a regal manner, (touring, strongly, **another**) member named Rob stated, "Clearly this (ladies, effect, **writer**) is one of the best, along (**with**, also, much) Jack London, Edgar Allen Poe, and (many, robe, **Mark**) Twain."

"I agree," Judd said. "But (no, **he**, us) is sometimes difficult to understand."

After (continue, ancient, **several**) hours of conversation while the wind (copper, **whipped**, believe) at their campfire until it was (explanation, Shakespeare's, **extinguished**), the four realized it was time (wet, air, **for**) their meeting in the grotto to (best, **come**, play) to an end. With much discussion (among, **behind**, natural) them, the meeting of the Dead (**Writer's**, English, phlegm) Society agreed to meet again in (old, dog, **two**) weeks. They held their

Answer Key

candles aloft (are, **and**, map) in single-file fashion, headed back (we, at, **to**) their respective vehicles and drove off (cane, **into**, tall) the dark, stormy night.

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Answer Key

Jellyfish are creatures found in most bodies of salt water, from the tropical waters of the Caribbean Sea, to the cold, dark waters of the Arctic Ocean.

Jellyfish are unusual creatures. When seen (Arctic, bubble, **in**) the water, it's hard to believe (**they**, and, that) are a species from this planet. (**They**, Water, Shades) look like aliens hanging suspended in (dark, creatures, **water**) with their luminous layers of tissue (in, however, **and**) flesh. They have long, curly tentacles (waters, some, **and**) plastic like bubble tops that sway (or, and, **in**) the sea.

Although it's difficult to (water, **believe**, like), jellyfish have no heart, blood, brain, (tissue, **or**, the) gills. You can see through their (planet, found, **mostly**) hollow stomach cavities where their food (seen, **is**, a) digested and dissolved. Jellyfish have no (**proper**, magenta, the) eyes or ears. In fact, it's (plastic, **possible**, their) to believe that jellyfish are just (their, **brainless**, grow) blobs without the slightest spark of (flesh, look, **intelligence**). Amazingly enough, despite their lack of (are, **sight**, hard) and hearing, jellyfish can distinguish touch, (come, **temperature**, sea), light, and darkness. They also know (**the**, of, shades) direction and pull of water currents.

(**Jellyfish**, White, The) come in an assortment of colors (**and**, a, of) shades. The jellyfish living in cooler (**waters**, mercy, most) are generally pale or milky white (warmer, **in**, suspended) color. Many of the jellyfish that (water, **live**, have) in warmer, tropical waters are often (**strikingly**, of, colossal) colored in shades of magenta, scarlet, (to, **yellow**, living), and orange.

A jellyfish can be (to, **as**, they) tiny as a thimble, and some (with, **can**, whimsy) grow to be as colossal as (scarlet, them, **a**) satellite dish. Most jellyfish can maneuver (can, **feebly**, orange) in the water; however, their poor (its, unusual, **swimming**) skills place them at the mercy (**and**, tops, them) whimsy of ocean currents.

Some jellyfish (in, poor, **ride**) the ocean currents alone, while other (curly, waters, **species**) travel in special groups called colonies. (In, Creatures, **The**) man-of-war is an example (assortment, **of**, this) a highly adapted jellyfish that travels (**with**, believe, and) a colony. The man-of-war (**serves**, generally, often) a special function in its colony. (**It**, A, Be) catches prey with a very long (**tentacle**, ocean, from) that can trail as far as (colors, other, **one**) hundred feet through the sea. The (**man**, jellyfish, that)-of-war's prey includes shrimp, squid, (hanging, **and**, aliens) fish. It also produces potent venom (**that**, of, sway) is harmful to humans who may (bodies, **swim**, layer) nearby, unaware of the man-of-(while, **war's**, skills) clever and stunning snares.

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Although it's difficult to (**water, believe, like**), jellyfish have no heart, blood, brain, (**tissue, or, the**) gills. You can see through their (**planet, found, mostly**) hollow stomach cavities where their food (**seen, is, a**) digested and dissolved. Jellyfish have no (**proper, magenta, the**) eyes or ears. In fact, it's (**plastic, possible, their**) to believe that jellyfish are just (**their, brainless, grow**) blobs without the slightest spark of (**flesh, look, intelligence**). Amazingly enough, despite their lack of (**are, sight, hard**) and hearing, jellyfish can distinguish touch, (**come, temperature, sea**), light, and darkness. They also know (**the, of, shades**) direction and pull of water currents.

(**Jellyfish, White, The**) come in an assortment of colors (**and, a, of**) shades. The jellyfish living in cooler (**waters, mercy, most**) are generally pale or milky white (**warmer, in, suspended**) color. Many of the jellyfish that (**water, live, have**) in warmer, tropical waters are often (**strikingly, of, colossal**) colored in shades of magenta, scarlet, (**to, yellow, living**), and orange.

A jellyfish can be (**to, as, they**) tiny as a thimble, and some (**with, can, whimsy**) grow to be as colossal as (**scarlet, them, a**) satellite dish. Most jellyfish can maneuver (**can, feebly, orange**) in the water; however, their poor (**its, unusual, swimming**) skills place them at the mercy (**and, tops, them**) whimsy of ocean currents.

Some jellyfish (**in, poor, ride**) the ocean currents alone, while other (**curly, waters, species**) travel in special groups called colonies. (**In, Creatures, The**) man-of-war is an example (**assortment, of, this**) a highly adapted jellyfish that travels (**with, believe, and**) a colony. The man-of-war (**serves, generally, often**) a special function in its colony. (**It, A, Be**) catches prey with a very long (**tentacle, ocean, from**) that can trail as far as (**colors, other, one**) hundred feet through the sea. The (**man, jellyfish, that**)-of-war's prey includes shrimp, squid, (**hanging, and, aliens**) fish. It also produces potent venom (**that, of, sway**) is harmful to humans who may (**bodies, swim, layer**) nearby, unaware of the man-of-(**while, war's, skills**) clever and stunning snares.

Answer Key

Peculiar things can happen when you don't watch where you're going. My name is Winifred, and one (was, **day**, low) while I was tromping home from (engine, **school**, slowly), minding my own business, I plummeted (horrible, missed, **through**) a trapdoor into another realm.

Maybe (as, **if**, to) I'd been paying attention to my (sentimental, imagination, **surroundings**) instead of worrying about my mom's (nervous, **reaction**, nonsense) to my failing grade on my (**arithmetic**, sovereign, confidence) test, I wouldn't have stumbled. Maybe (be, **if**, no) I'd listened attentively to my teacher, (tour, **Miss**, girl) Pinch, instead of daydreaming out the (senior, cloth, **window**) during her arithmetic review yesterday, I (bragged, **wouldn't**, friends) have had anything to worry about (or, it, **in**) the first place.

But there I (how, **was**, own), fretting about what my mom would (**say**, and, now) when I told her the bad (grade, worry, **news**), when suddenly I heard an owl (away, call, **hoot**) from one of the buildings above (so, **me**, by). I quickly glanced up, and then (up, **it**, do) happened. Before I could return my (hope, fear, **gaze**) to my sneakers, I'd already stepped (ecstatic, **through**, everyone) the trapdoor in the sidewalk and (pay, for, **was**) tumbling down further and further through (doubt, **layers**, excite) of blackness.

I hit the spongy (**ground**, stretch, through) of another world with a hard (train, light, **thump**).

When I opened my eyes, I (there, step, **found**) myself in the middle of a (even, **deep**, lake), echoing, green forest. The tree trunks (slow, **were**, hill) bigger than my mom's car, the (followed, snowdrift, **mushrooms**) rivaled our dishwasher, and the ladybugs (train, **could**, enter) have eaten my dog for breakfast.

"(I, As, Or) must be hallucinating," I said to (doubts, distant, **myself**) quietly.

"You're not dreaming, Winifred," said (if, **a**, no) voice from the shadows. "You weren't (**paying**, summer, tumble) attention, that's all. Now you've happened (we, **to**, by) stumble into Daydream Land."

"Excuse me?" (am, no, **I**) asked, standing up wobbly on my (book, **feet**, eager). "Who's speaking to me?" Before the (**aloof**, about, there) voice could answer, I realized I'd (proof, **fallen**, decide) down right next to someone's gigantic (**boot**, away, cram). The boot was connected to an (glance, lower, **ankle**), the ankle to a leg, and (law, **the**, too) leg to a colossal woman lounging (alone, letter, **around**) on the forest floor.

"Have I (can, **got**, see) your attention now, Winifred?" she asked (**as**, by, so) I realized she resembled Miss Pinch.

(True, **When**, Home) she saw the look on my (June, **face**, away), the giant woman laughed and crawled (before, arrive, **closer**). She plucked me off my feet (try, **and**, for) held me up to her face (**as**, or, to) if I weighed nothing.

Answer Key

"We'll start (cool, maybe, **with**) multiplication," she informed me. "Please pay (**attention**, adventure, straining) this time."

Peculiar things can happen when you don't watch where you're going. My name is Winifred, and one **(was, day, low)** while I was tromping home from **(engine, school, slowly)**, minding my own business, I plummeted **(horrible, missed, through)** a trapdoor into another realm.

Maybe **(as, if, to)** I'd been paying attention to my **(sentimental, imagination, surroundings)** instead of worrying about my mom's **(nervous, reaction, nonsense)** to my failing grade on my **(arithmetic, sovereign, confidence)** test, I wouldn't have stumbled. Maybe **(be, if, no)** I'd listened attentively to my teacher, **(tour, Miss, girl)** Pinch, instead of daydreaming out the **(senior, cloth, window)** during her arithmetic review yesterday, I **(bragged, wouldn't, friends)** have had anything to worry about **(or, it, in)** the first place.

But there I **(how, was, own)**, fretting about what my mom would **(say, and, now)** when I told her the bad **(grade, worry, news)**, when suddenly I heard an owl **(away, call, hoot)** from one of the buildings above **(so, me, by)**. I quickly glanced up, and then **(up, it, do)** happened. Before I could return my **(hope, fear, gaze)** to my sneakers, I'd already stepped **(ecstatic, through, everyone)** the trapdoor in the sidewalk and **(pay, for, was)** tumbling down further and further through **(doubt, layers, excite)** of blackness.

I hit the spongy **(ground, stretch, through)** of another world with a hard **(train, light, thump)**.

When I opened my eyes, I **(there, step, found)** myself in the middle of a **(even, deep, lake)**, echoing, green forest. The tree trunks **(slow, were, hill)** bigger than my mom's car, the **(followed, snowdrift, mushrooms)** rivaled our dishwasher, and the ladybugs **(train, could, enter)** have eaten my dog for breakfast.

"**(I, As, Or)** must be hallucinating," I said to **(doubts, distant, myself)** quietly.

"You're not dreaming, Winifred," said **(if, a, no)** voice from the shadows. "You weren't **(paying, summer, tumble)** attention, that's all. Now you've happened **(we, to, by)** stumble into Daydream Land."

"Excuse me?" **(am, no, I)** asked, standing up wobbly on my **(book, feet, eager)**. "Who's speaking to me?" Before the **(aloof, about, there)** voice could answer, I realized I'd **(proof, fallen, decide)** down right next to someone's gigantic **(boot, away, cram)**. The boot was connected to an **(glance, lower, ankle)**, the ankle to a leg, and **(law, the, too)** leg to a colossal woman lounging **(alone, letter, around)** on the forest floor.

"Have I **(can, got, see)** your attention now, Winifred?" she asked **(as, by, so)** I realized she resembled Miss Pinch.

(True, When, Home) she saw the look on my **(June, face, away)**, the giant woman laughed and crawled **(before, arrive, closer)**. She plucked me off my feet **(try, and, for)** held me up to her face **(as, or, to)** if I weighed nothing.

"We'll start (**cool, maybe, with**) multiplication," she informed me. "Please pay (**attention, adventure, straining**) this time."

Answer Key

Peter could feel the train's engine straining as it chugged slowly up the hill. All day the train had followed (be, if, **an**) arrow-straight course across the flat (instruct, **prairies**, sometime) of the Great Plains. For Peter, (turn, slow, **they**) were horribly boring miles of emptiness (most, **that**, them) were taking him far away from (**home**, fact, life). He missed the forests and lakes (to, **in**, so) the areas near his hometown. He (soon, **also**, know) missed his family terribly, even his (halted, beyond, **bratty**) little sister.

Peter was extremely excited (grass, door, **last**) January when he walked through waist-(**high**, lunch, made) snowdrifts to the mailbox and found (of, in, **a**) packet of information about employment waiting (can, **for**, has) him in Montana. He'd wanted an (charming, emptiness, **adventure**), and there it was in the (student, **mailbox**, lecture) on a frigid winter day. Peter (**felt**, after, then) that an exotic summer job away (most, **from**, for) home would be just the thing (do, by, **he**) needed.

He'd eagerly filled out the (drawn, **forms**, think) and waited for a reply. At (are, not, **the**) end of April, after what seemed (**like**, chin, talk) forever and just as he was (cases, **about**, ruled) to give up hope, the letter (we, no, **of**) acceptance arrived. The letter proudly announced (**that**, open, with) in June he would be off (as, **to**, if) Glacier Park in Montana. Peter was (**ecstatic**, shrivel, gathered)! But after several euphoric weeks, doubts (third, speak, **began**) to arise. While he would be (certainly, intrigued, **thousands**) of miles from home, his friends (books, **would**, knock) still be here. He would be (by, **in**, as) Montana all alone. Suddenly, home looked (**better**, eagerly, street) than it ever had before.

But (buy, he'd, **how**) could he turn back now, especially (great, **after**, found) he had bragged to his friends (insect, avoid, **about**) the exciting adventure he was going (of, **to**, or) have? If he quit now, they (**would**, always, study) all think he was a mama's (**boy**, for, two) who couldn't bear to be separated (best, **from**, wide) his family. He decided he needed (be, **to**, or) prove to everyone that he could (up, an, **do**) this, but as the train to (stooped, creature, **Montana**) rolled on, his depression and loneliness (**increased**, thousands, especially).

Finally the train reached the top (in, to, **of**) the hill and Peter could feel (too, dog, **the**) engine working easier. He sighed, lowered (tea, **the**, low) book he'd been reading, and glanced (bag, **out**, saw) the window. What he saw took (saw, far, **his**) breath away. There, stretching off into (can, **the**, not) distance, were majestic snow-covered mountains. (**The**, May, Wet) sun was just setting, making them (eyes, what, **glow**) with a soft golden light. It (all, **was**, can) an awesome site. "Well," he thought to (morning, **himself**, student), "maybe, just maybe, this won't be (at, is, **so**) bad after all."

Peter could feel the train's engine straining as it chugged slowly up the hill. All day the train had followed **(be, if, an)** arrow-straight course across the flat **(instruct, prairies, sometime)** of the Great Plains. For Peter, **(turn, slow, they)** were horribly boring miles of emptiness **(most, that, them)** were taking him far away from **(home, fact, life)**. He missed the forests and lakes **(to, in, so)** the areas near his hometown. He **(soon, also, know)** missed his family terribly, even his **(halted, beyond, bratty)** little sister.

Peter was extremely excited **(grass, door, last)** January when he walked through waist-**(high, lunch, made)** snowdrifts to the mailbox and found **(of, in, a)** packet of information about employment waiting **(can, for, has)** him in Montana. He'd wanted an **(charming, emptiness, adventure)**, and there it was in the **(student, mailbox, lecture)** on a frigid winter day. Peter **(felt, after, then)** that an exotic summer job away **(most, from, for)** home would be just the thing **(do, by, he)** needed.

He'd eagerly filled out the **(drawn, forms, think)** and waited for a reply. At **(are, not, the)** end of April, after what seemed **(like, chin, talk)** forever and just as he was **(cases, about, ruled)** to give up hope, the letter **(we, no, of)** acceptance arrived. The letter proudly announced **(that, open, with)** in June he would be off **(as, to, if)** Glacier Park in Montana. Peter was **(ecstatic, shrivel, gathered)**! But after several euphoric weeks, doubts **(third, speak, began)** to arise. While he would be **(certainly, intrigued, thousands)** of miles from home, his friends **(books, would, knock)** still be here. He would be **(by, in, as)** Montana all alone. Suddenly, home looked **(better, eagerly, street)** than it ever had before.

But **(buy, he'd, how)** could he turn back now, especially **(great, after, found)** he had bragged to his friends **(insect, avoid, about)** the exciting adventure he was going **(of, to, or)** have? If he quit now, they **(would, always, study)** all think he was a mama's **(boy, for, two)** who couldn't bear to be separated **(best, from, wide)** his family. He decided he needed **(be, to, or)** prove to everyone that he could **(up, an, do)** this, but as the train to **(stooped, creature, Montana)** rolled on, his depression and loneliness **(increased, thousands, especially)**.

Finally the train reached the top **(in, to, of)** the hill and Peter could feel **(too, dog, the)** engine working easier. He sighed, lowered **(tea, the, low)** book he'd been reading, and glanced **(bag, out, saw)** the window. What he saw took **(saw, far, his)** breath away. There, stretching off into **(can, the, not)** distance, were majestic snow-covered mountains. **(The, May, Wet)** sun was just setting, making them **(eyes, what, glow)** with a soft golden light. It **(all, was, can)** an awesome site. "Well," he thought to **(morning, himself, student)**, "maybe, just maybe, this won't be **(at, is, so)** bad after all."

Answer Key

Professor Lee Chin was the oldest instructor at the Baxter Academy of Science and Biology. Not only was he the wisest (**professor**, inflation, extremely) at the Academy, but he was (upon, **also**, your) one of the most admired professors (to, as, **by**) the students.

Professor Chin ruled over (pad, **the**, was) Biology Department. His special interest was (dab, her, **the**) study of insects. Students of Biology (calm, frog, **were**) always seeking his attention and approval.

(Saw, **The**, All) walls of Professor Chin's third floor (currency, happiness, **classroom**) were filled with many tall shelves. (Air, **The**, Two) shelves were crammed with dusty, leather- (**bound**, grant, loudly) books about ancient insects. There were (long, does, **also**) jars filled with preserved creatures and (grant, **glass**, voice) cases protecting a collection of dried (legacy, ancient, **beetles**) and butterflies.

One would have thought (kiss, **that**, nose) students would avoid Professor Chin's classroom (**with**, much, offer) all of its smelly and shriveled (beckon, **animal**, middle) specimens. Instead, students flocked there. They (sparkling, **gathered**, fashion) in the halls before the morning (does, third, **bell**) and filled the seats of the (ruler, known, **desks**) to capacity during lecture hours.

No (growing, **student**, loudly) could really describe why they were (**so**, an, by) drawn to Professor Chin. There were (leaned, rather, **plenty**) of other boring, musty professors at (steamy, **Baxter**, quite) Academy. It most certainly wasn't because (am, or, **of**) his baldhead, his stooped back, or (may, **his**, not) brown pantsuits.

His English was halting (**at**, of, in) best and he sometimes got off (grant, along, **topic**). He'd mention dragonflies or some beetle (be, is, **of**) Africa and then speak about it (low, **for**, see) most of the remaining class period. (For, **The**, Wet) confusing habit he had of veering (how, try, **off**) topic should have annoyed his pupils. (**Instead**, Balance, Batter), it intrigued all of them. It (**was**, row, dog) well known that after one of (tremendous, **Professor**, demanded) Chin's rambling lectures, all of the (close, **books**, happy) in the library about dragonflies or (new, can, **the**) beetles of Africa would be checked (saw, off, **out**) by lunch.

One of the most (requested, **charming**, otherwise) things about Professor Chin was that (**he**, us, or) kept the doors to his office (very, plum, **open**) at all hours. Students working in (who, **the**, all) field or on their senior thesis (magnificent, professor, **especially**) liked the fact that he was (growing, **readily**, annoyed) available. They found it to be (**a**, if, so) great relief when they could knock (be, of, **on**) his door and tell him about (we, **a**, to) swarm of Luna moths congregating around (not, **the**, two) street lamps of the campus, or (**how**, all, can) a strange type of beetle had (showing, dragons, **infested**) the grass of the soccer field. (In, Or, **No**) matter what insect or infestation, Professor (heir, **Chin**, call) was always wide-eyed and interested (**in**, as, be) anything the students had to say.

Answer Key

(By, **He**, No) was always ready for an entomological (handsome, marrying, **adventure**), and that made Professor Chin the (offer, **best**, time) professor at Baxter Academy.

Professor Lee Chin was the oldest instructor at the Baxter Academy of Science and Biology. Not only was he the wisest (**professor, inflation, extremely**) at the Academy, but he was (**upon, also, your**) one of the most admired professors (**to, as, by**) the students.

Professor Chin ruled over (**pad, the, was**) Biology Department. His special interest was (**dab, her, the**) study of insects. Students of Biology (**calm, frog, were**) always seeking his attention and approval.

(**Saw, The, All**) walls of Professor Chin's third floor (**currency, happiness, classroom**) were filled with many tall shelves. (**Air, The, Two**) shelves were crammed with dusty, leather-(**bound, grant, loudly**) books about ancient insects. There were (**long, does, also**) jars filled with preserved creatures and (**grant, glass, voice**) cases protecting a collection of dried (**legacy, ancient, beetles**) and butterflies.

One would have thought (**kiss, that, nose**) students would avoid Professor Chin's classroom (**with, much, offer**) all of its smelly and shriveled (**beckon, animal, middle**) specimens. Instead, students flocked there. They (**sparkling, gathered, fashion**) in the halls before the morning (**does, third, bell**) and filled the seats of the (**ruler, known, desks**) to capacity during lecture hours.

No (**growing, student, loudly**) could really describe why they were (**so, an, by**) drawn to Professor Chin. There were (**leaned, rather, plenty**) of other boring, musty professors at (**steamy, Baxter, quite**) Academy. It most certainly wasn't because (**am, or, of**) his baldhead, his stooped back, or (**may, his, not**) brown pantsuits.

His English was halting (**at, of, in**) best and he sometimes got off (**grant, along, topic**). He'd mention dragonflies or some beetle (**be, is, of**) Africa and then speak about it (**low, for, see**) most of the remaining class period. (**For, The, Wet**) confusing habit he had of veering (**how, try, off**) topic should have annoyed his pupils. (**Instead, Balance, Batter**), it intrigued all of them. It (**was, row, dog**) well known that after one of (**tremendous, Professor, demanded**) Chin's rambling lectures, all of the (**close, books, happy**) in the library about dragonflies or (**new, can, the**) beetles of Africa would be checked (**saw, off, out**) by lunch.

One of the most (**requested, charming, otherwise**) things about Professor Chin was that (**he, us, or**) kept the doors to his office (**very, plum, open**) at all hours. Students working in (**who, the, all**) field or on their senior thesis (**magnificent, professor, especially**) liked the fact that he was (**growing, readily, annoyed**) available. They found it to be (**a, if, so**) great relief when they could knock (**be, of, on**) his door and tell him about (**we, a, to**) swarm of Luna moths congregating around (**not, the, two**) street lamps of the campus, or (**how, all, can**) a strange type of beetle had (**showing, dragons, infested**) the grass of the soccer field. (**In, Or, No**) matter what insect or infestation, Professor (**heir, Chin, call**) was always wide-eyed and interested (**in, as, be**) anything the students had to say.

(By, He, No) was always ready for an entomological **(handsome, marrying, adventure)**, and that made Professor Chin the **(offer, best, time)** professor at Baxter Academy.

Answer Key

Sitting upon a gigantic lily pad located smack dab in the middle of a sparkling pond was a rather large, green, spotted frog. On one particularly steamy summer afternoon, (go, be, **a**) princess set sail across the pond. (So, **As**, To) she glided gently past the lily (saw, two, **pad**), the spotted frog raised his rather (need, **ugly**, lily) head and beckoned to her in (**a**, no, by) very loud voice.

"Kiss me," demanded (for, wet, **the**) frog. "You must kiss me upon (as, **my**, if) balding forehead. Kiss me now, and (to, or, **I**) will offer you the luxury of (raccoon, **marrying**, chocolate) a handsome prince."

"Not on your (they, such, **life**)," replied the princess as she wrinkled (low, **her**, cup) nose in disgust. "I am the (**ruler**, shine, sail) of my kingdom and I pass (am, in, **my**) own laws. I can also lead (**my**, as, do) own magnificent armies into battle. I (beckoned, **certainly**, remaining) have no need for a prince, (camping, **whether**, dissolve) he is truly handsome or otherwise."

"(We, Go, **If**) you will simply and eloquently place (us, he, **a**) kiss upon my forehead, I will (noise, closer, **grant**) you tremendous fortunes. Kiss me and (to, or, **I**) will make you the heir of (mistake, **millions**, settled) and you will never desire anything (**more**, beat, fill)."

"I think not," snorted the princess. "(No, By, **I**) maintain a balanced budget and my (birthday, **kingdom**, nominate) is showing excellent economic growth. I (included, cooler, **believe**) your fortunes will devalue my currency, (cake, **send**, your) inflation soaring, and cripple our economy."

"(Each, **Kiss**, Girl) me upon my forehead," said the (potato, **grumpy**, mouths) old frog. "Kiss me and I (told, acts, **will**) grant you dazzling beauty. Please do (me, on, **as**) I have requested and this will (**truly**, sound, cabin) be your legacy."

"How very, very (hysterical, viciously, **flattering**)," sneered the princess. "As you can (too, **see**, was), I may be quite plain, but (in, to, **as**) you may already know, beauty does (car, **not**, tow) last and personality is what really (gossip, evening, **matters**)."

"Fine, whatever is it that you (squeal, relaxed, **request**)?" demanded the frog growing evermore impatient. (By, **He**, As) was, by the way, used to (stories, **dealing**, actually) more with the old-fashioned kind (**of**, or, am) princesses. The princess thought extremely hard (can, low, **and**) leaned very close to the old (foot, **frog**, soon).

"I want to be happy," she (container, mysterious, **whispered**) and kissed the old frog upon (why, **his**, red) forehead.

"You have refused wealth, beauty, (how, **and**, buy) love, but yet you want happiness (**from**, hear, away) kissing a frog! That my dear, (on, of, **is**) something that I cannot grant you." (Shy, **The**, Not) old frog laughed loudly and leapt (down, rest, **from**) the gigantic lily pad into the (giant, **clear**, happy), blue pond.

Sitting upon a gigantic lily pad located smack dab in the middle of a sparkling pond was a rather large, green, spotted frog. On one particularly steamy summer afternoon, **(go, be, a)** princess set sail across the pond. **(So, As, To)** she glided gently past the lily **(saw, two, pad)**, the spotted frog raised his rather **(need, ugly, lily)** head and beckoned to her in **(a, no, by)** very loud voice.

"Kiss me," demanded **(for, wet, the)** frog. "You must kiss me upon **(as, my, if)** balding forehead. Kiss me now, and **(to, or, I)** will offer you the luxury of **(raccoon, marrying, chocolate)** a handsome prince."

"Not on your **(they, such, life)**," replied the princess as she wrinkled **(low, her, cup)** nose in disgust. "I am the **(ruler, shine, sail)** of my kingdom and I pass **(am, in, my)** own laws. I can also lead **(my, as, do)** own magnificent armies into battle. I **(beckoned, certainly, remaining)** have no need for a prince, **(camping, whether, dissolve)** he is truly handsome or otherwise."

"**(We, Go, If)** you will simply and eloquently place **(us, he, a)** kiss upon my forehead, I will **(noise, closer, grant)** you tremendous fortunes. Kiss me and **(to, or, I)** will make you the heir of **(mistake, millions, settled)** and you will never desire anything **(more, beat, fill)**."

"I think not," snorted the princess. "**(No, By, I)** maintain a balanced budget and my **(birthday, kingdom, nominate)** is showing excellent economic growth. I **(included, cooler, believe)** your fortunes will devalue my currency, **(cake, send, your)** inflation soaring, and cripple our economy."

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"How very, very **(hysterical, viciously, flattering)**," sneered the princess. "As you can **(too, see, was)**, I may be quite plain, but **(in, to, as)** you may already know, beauty does **(car, not, tow)** last and personality is what really **(gossip, evening, matters)**."

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"I want to be happy," she **(container, mysterious, whispered)** and kissed the old frog upon **(why, his, red)** forehead.

"You have refused wealth, beauty, **(how, and, buy)** love, but yet you want happiness **(from, hear, away)** kissing a frog! That my dear, **(on, of, is)** something that I cannot grant you." **(Shy, The, Not)** old frog laughed loudly and leapt **(down, rest, from)** the gigantic lily pad into the **(giant, clear, happy)**, blue pond.

Answer Key

Stacy, Mary, and Diana had carried the final load of camping equipment they needed for their wilderness adventure. The load included such necessities as (**an**, to, be) old, beat up cooler filled with (volunteer, tournament, **sandwiches**), sodas, a battery operated lantern, flashlights, (was, **and**, how) a birthday cake for Stacy. They (can, try, **had**) hiked across three grassy acres to (choice, **Stacy's**, silver) cabin next to a grove of (**maples**, reality, switch) by the lakeshore.

The evening was (disheveled, **delightful**, complaints) as the girls played games, gossiped, (low, far, **and**) devoured their supper of sandwiches and (movie, **potato**, laughed) chips. After dinner, Diana brought out (buy, now, **the**) delicious chocolate cake her mother had (choice, night, **baked**) for Stacy's birthday. They each cut (incredible, **themselves**, excellent) a giant piece and relaxed, letting (new, tan, **the**) cake dissolve in their mouths.

As (bay, **the**, pad) sun set, the clouds of mosquitoes (**came**, know, with) out biting viciously. The girls covered (was, **the**, air) remaining cake and gathered their garbage (so, **in**, by) a plastic container. Then they settled (held, warm, **into**) the cabin and began to tell (plates, rating, **spooky**) stories. Diana acted out a story (**about**, party, games) a house that supposedly was haunted. (Watch, Treat, **Stacy**) told a story called "The Hook." (Divide, **After**, Their) the stories, sleep was a hopeless (excellent, **endeavor**, children).

Suddenly Mary heard a crunching sound (raised, promise, **coming**) from the direction of the maple (**grove**, party, about). With tremendous squealing and the frantic (complaint, focused, **grabbing**) of flashlights, the girls cowered in (video, **their**, began) sleeping bags. They attempted to convince (tale, golf, **each**) other that it was nothing but (all, **the**, two) wind, but the crunching noises continued (ready, people, **coming**) closer and closer. Now, there was (of, we, **no**) mistaking the sound for what it (husband, **actually**, display) was— footsteps!

After a muffled discussion (goodies, **through**, showing) their layers of sleeping bags, Stacy (**was**, far, too) nominated to shine her flashlight out (**the**, why, new) cabin's front door in the direction (is, an, **of**) the mysterious crunching. Diana would be (choice, **ready**, watch) to swing the camping lantern as (up, on, **a**) weapon and Mary would scream as (heroic, **loudly**, divide) as she could as a distraction. (Do, **On**, Be) the count of three the action (point, **began**, after) and continued until Mary stopped screaming (by, or, **to**) catch her breath. As soon as (pay, low, **she**) did, Mary could hear Stacy and (**Diana**, April, five) laughing hysterically. They were pointing out (did, **the**, our) door to the chubbiest raccoon the (fool, **girls**, fired) had ever seen. He had carefully (promise, distract, **removed**) the cover from the chocolate cake. (Cassette, Accidental, **Oblivious**) to the racket going on inside

Answer Key

(out, **the**, mad) cabin, the girls found him calmly (**chowing**, pleasure, played) down on the rest of Stacy's (bandana, sunlight, **birthday**) cake.

Stacy, Mary, and Diana had carried the final load of camping equipment they needed for their wilderness adventure. The load included such necessities as **(an, to, be)** old, beat up cooler filled with **(volunteer, tournament, sandwiches)**, sodas, a battery operated lantern, flashlights, **(was, and, how)** a birthday cake for Stacy. They **(can, try, had)** hiked across three grassy acres to **(choice, Stacy's, silver)** cabin next to a grove of **(maples, reality, switch)** by the lakeshore.

The evening was **(disheveled, delightful, complaints)** as the girls played games, gossiped, **(low, far, and)** devoured their supper of sandwiches and **(movie, potato, laughed)** chips. After dinner, Diana brought out **(buy, now, the)** delicious chocolate cake her mother had **(choice, night, baked)** for Stacy's birthday. They each cut **(incredible, themselves, excellent)** a giant piece and relaxed, letting **(new, tan, the)** cake dissolve in their mouths.

As **(bay, the, pad)** sun set, the clouds of mosquitoes **(came, know, with)** out biting viciously. The girls covered **(was, the, air)** remaining cake and gathered their garbage **(so, in, by)** a plastic container. Then they settled **(held, warm, into)** the cabin and began to tell **(plates, rating, spooky)** stories. Diana acted out a story **(about, party, games)** a house that supposedly was haunted. **(Watch, Treat, Stacy)** told a story called "The Hook." **(Divide, After, Their)** the stories, sleep was a hopeless **(excellent, endeavor, children).**

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inside (**out, the, mad**) cabin, the girls found him calmly (**chowing, pleasure, played**) down on the rest of Stacy's (**bandana, sunlight, birthday**) cake.

Answer Key

The naive third graders thought it was a coincidence when they read the last story in their hard covered literature book on the last day of the quarter, March thirty first. When their teacher, Mrs. Larson, said (**the**, how, last) next day included a reward party, (low, can, **the**) children cheered with excitement.

Immediately they (stuck, **began**, never) organizing a plan and volunteers raised (spoon, jelly, **their**) hands to bring soda, popcorn, and (catch, **other**, hated) goodies. The students voted on a (**video**, chore, clean), choosing a very charming tale about (to, **a**, be) shaggy and heroic dog. Because the (musty, **movie**, miles) was not given any rating, Mrs. (tunnel, lights, **Larson**) said she would need to preview (far, now, **the**) movie before showing it to the (other, **class**, green). If it was suitable for general (discover, detested, **audiences**), it would be shown. If it (beyond, **wasn't**, books) suitable, they would watch their alternate (**choice**, knees, clean).

The next day, the students giggled (by, or, **as**) they came into the classroom and (between, charming, **started**) to divide up the treats. When (never, **their**, enjoy) plates were full and their laughter (lost, **died**, much) down, Mrs. Larson began to set (**up**, no, as) the VCR.

"Boys and girls," she (dishes, gave, **began**). Immediately, all eyes were focused on (dog, **the**, fan) teacher as she held up the (try, new, **box**) displaying a disheveled dog wearing silver (disappear, **sunglasses**, combination) and a blue bandana. "Last night (be, **I**, or) watched this movie at home and (how, **you**, tie) certainly made an excellent choice. In (soap, gave, **this**) movie, there is an incredible puppy. (No, As, **He**) is so hilarious that my husband (**even**, mind, eyes) laughed out loud! Today promises to (to, or, **be**) a party I know you'll remember!"

(Who, Saw, **The**) lights were turned off and the (rotten, **closed**, choice) blinds cut off the warm sunlight. (Pay, **Mrs.**, Dew) Larson inserted the cassette and turned (up, he, **on**) the television. Instead of the movie, (**people**, pulled, tunnel) playing golf appeared on the screen. (To, Be, **At**) first it just seemed like a (bizarre, **lengthy**, certain) commercial, but the reality was that (so, as, **it**) was a golf tournament.

Puzzled, the (lantern, **children**, shadows) sat speechless with handfuls of popcorn (**held**, chore, any) in mid air as they focused (go, by, **on**) the film. One by one, they (other, book, **began**) to whisper their displeasure until they (practical, **concluded**, suddenly) the video had accidentally been mishandled (or, **at**, he) the teacher's house. At the peak (**of**, do, up) complaints and disappointment, Mrs. Larson switched (if, **on**, we) the lights, pointed at the classroom (weight, above, **filled**) with students, and shouted, "April Fools (casserole, **everybody**, pneumonia)! I got you! I got you! (See, Say, **Now**), is everyone ready for the real (**movie**, called, known)?"

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Answer Key

The one chore Gilda detested more than any other chore was washing the dishes after supper. She hated standing in front of (for, **the**, how) kitchen sink, with its leaky faucet (was, **and**, new) the cold, drafty air around her (**ankles**, apple, though). She hated mucking out jelly jars (low, can, **and**) frying pans and scraping greasy casserole (found, **dishes**, orchard) and mixing spoons.

It seemed that (perform, **whenever**, delicate) Gilda did the dishes, there was (which, chore, **never**) enough dishwashing soap or hot water (**to**, we, as) get all of the dishes clean. (Be, **In**, Or) Gilda's mind, it always seemed like (hot, **she**, ham) was the only one who ended (of, in, **up**) scrubbing the dishes and practically catching (reverence, hydraulic, **pneumonia**) from the cold draft.

One afternoon, (**Gilda**, empire, overt) ran out of dishwashing soap. She (company, orchards, **grumbled**) and bent down to grab another (spring, **bottle**, ground) from beneath the sink. But instead (be, on, **of**) dishwashing soap and other cleaning supplies, (who, **she**, can) discovered a long, dark tunnel with (up, of, **a**) waxy trail of soap disappearing into (up, or, **it**). Gilda got down on her hands (too, **and**, here) knees and crawled into the cupboard (would, green, **below**) the sink. As she stuck her (book, **head**, long) into the tunnel, she suddenly lost (**her**, was, the) balance.

"Eeeeeeee!" she cried as she (season, baskets, **tumbled**) through tree roots, earthworms, and damp (lake, were, **dirt**).

Finally, Gilda stopped tumbling and found (respect, **herself**, company) in a musty cave lined with (famous, driving, **bizarre**) lanterns that gave off green light. (May, Try, **She**) noticed that the trail of soap (low, bay, **she**) found wound its way between the (marshmallow, **stalagmites**, concentrated) and stalactites of the cave and (pass, **into**, true) the shadows beyond her.

Gilda pulled (**the**, for, you) nearest lantern from its ledge and (adequate, **hurried**, morning) off in hot pursuit of an (knew, **exit**, treat). She followed a path that got (purchase, pollinate, **narrower**) and narrower for what seemed like (place, spring, **miles**) and miles. Finally, she heard deep, (confession, southern, **grumbling**) voices and the splash of water. (Hoped, Trees, **There**) was a horrible smell too, a (occupational, **combination**, headquarters) of rancid fish and rotten eggs.

(**The**, Man, New) stink made Gilda's eyes water and (how, **her**, was) stomach roll. Bracing her hands on (do, go, **a**) boulder, Gilda peaked around the large (many, **rock**, fruit) and was shocked by what she (far, too, **saw**). It was a gang of trolls (horrible, grounds, **washing**) their feet with her bottle of (play, **soap**, call)!

When they saw Gilda, they all (tedious, tractor, **grinned**) their biggest troll grins.

Answer Key

"Oh look," (can, **one**, see) of the trolls said, "apparently someone (**came**, pink, will) to get their soap back."

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"Oh look," (**can, one, see**) of the trolls said, "apparently someone (**came, pink, will**) to get their soap back."

Answer Key

Mr. Harper was seventy-nine years old. However, that didn't prevent him from (plums, **rising**, treating) every morning at sunrise and walking (**the**, but, apples) property lines of his farm. Mr. (However, **Harper**, Raccoon) knew his farm's boundaries and what (about, **property**, royalty) belonged to him and what didn't. (**Most**, That, Keep) mornings he found evidence of trespassers (**on**, and, long) his land the night before, but (**he**, because, and) didn't mind.

The trespassers left sharp (**footprints**, land, wild) in the turf when they came (seventy, the, **for**) the windfalls of apples and plums (**that**, years, the) littered the orderly rows of his (**orchard**, was,). They came for the bud-blossoms (**on**, orchard, the) his evergreens and the sweet acorns (**that**, nine, to) fell from his oaks. Sometimes Mr. (**Harper**, Old, Guests) was lucky enough to come upon (**the**, season, what) culprits. White-tailed deer were to (the, **blame**, trespassers) for nibbling the apples on his (every, **apple**, found) trees. Sometimes he was fortunate enough (sandwiches, **to**, and) catch them dancing on their hind (**legs**, friends, didn't) as they stretched to reach fruit (**that**, winter, of) had not yet fallen.

Mr. Harper (at, with, **was**) the proprietor of a tree farm (animals, the, **that**) he'd inherited from his grandparents (**many**, he, block) decades ago. The trees that now (littered, **dwarfed**, orderly) him were planted when he was (**only**, found, didn't) a toddler. He was an adolescent (**when**, from, his) the orchards had yielded their first (**crop**, boundaries, to) of fruit.

Even though he was (**now**, knew, farm) an old man and had been (mornings, his, **a**) widower for ten years, he was (his, evidence, **not**) a lonely man. How could an (**old**, in, deer) man feel lonesome when a family (his, and, **of**) squirrels transformed the grand oak trees (was, provided, **in**) his front yard into an apartment (farm, **complex**, roamed)? How could he feel lonesome when (his, in, **there**) was so much work to be (trees, happy, **done**)?

Mr. Harper treated his wild guests (**like**, fence, he) royalty because he wanted them to (**return**, his, they) season after season and keep him (**company**, adolescent, belonged). To keep the animals happy, he (for, enjoyed, **put**) out seed for the birds that (the, what, **nested**) in his trees and salt-block (wooed, **appetizers**, birds) for the deer herd that roamed (of, **his**, night) land. He wooed his raccoon friends (**with**, walking, rows) peanut butter sandwiches nailed to fence (**posts**, wanted, orchard). In return, they provided him with (for, sharp, **entertainment**) all winter long. Mr. Harper enjoyed (**everything**, him, prevent) about his tree farm, but his (morning, **favorite**, turf) part was watching the scenes of (sunshine, after, **nature**) unfold before him.

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Answer Key

Up, over my head, I spy about a million ruby red oak leaves and I stop to stare in quiet amazement.

"Wow!" I say, as I grab (past, calm, **hold**) of my grandpa's hand and tug (was, how, **him**) toward the gigantic oak that supports (low, **the**, try) brilliant leaves. The tree trunk is (finally, **cragged**, extinct) and scarred from the two hundred (**years**, north, trunk) it has spent surviving the elements.

"(Robe, Tree, **Look**), Grandpa," I say, as I hold (to, **up**, as) a crimson leaf that has fallen (am, be, **to**) the ground from one of the (anything, **branches**, echoing) towering above us. "Isn't this one (an, **of**, to) the most gorgeous things you've ever (tell, **seen**, what)?"

Grandpa takes the leaf and admires (if, we, **it**) for a moment before he stows (us, so, **it**) in the brown paper sack that (**he**, by, or) has been carrying for me.

"It's (do, up, **a**) keeper," he says. "Where should we (gold, **look**, stow) next?"

"How about over in the (new, him, **old**) maple grove?" I ask. We then (keeping, **trudge**, closed) on, crunching over drying and decomposing (pirate, **leaves**, found) as we continue.

It's autumn, my (landscape, **favorite**, studied) season, and today my Grandpa Kendall (two, **and**, say) I are collecting only the most (crooked, treasure, **vibrant**) leaves from the trees of his (dreamed, **forest**, stormy). Every October my mom, dad, and (**I**, go, as) drive from the city to my (pirates, lowered, **Grandpa**) Kendall's dairy farm to enjoy the (find, **show**, sandy) the trees put on.

My Grandpa (scallywag, distance, **Kendall's**) pastures have especially beautiful hardwood trees. (To, **He**, No) also has black and white dairy (flag, **cows**, high) with clanging metal bells around their (strong, below, **necks**) who follow us wherever we go. (Open, Tiny, **They**) must think we have corn in (**our**, for, off) pockets because they tiptoe behind us, (quickly, thousand, **sniffing**) at our pockets at every given (productive, **opportunity**, transfusion).

Sometimes those huge creatures startle me (nets, find, **when**) they rudely moo in my face (see, try, **and**) sniff at my hair. They have (subside, order, **sticky**), pink noses and breath that smells (**like**, give, they) hay and grain.

I hold up (be, if, **a**) maple leaf for one of them (is, an, **to**) inspect, wondering if it will just (anchor, **gobble**, flying) it out of my hand, but (thirty, **instead**, captain), the cow turns away with a (**toss**, jump, them) of her big head.

When we (aboard, **return**, shore) to the house, Grandpa and I (lost, **will**, says) relax for a while in front (or, on, **of**) the fire as Grandma Kendall irons (pan, low, **the**) leaves we've collected between pieces of (**wax**, can, saw) paper.

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Answer Key

With a crossbones and skull flag flying high through the air, a group of daring pirates navigated their ship through the stormy sea towards a distant island. Through the mist before them lay (was, how, **the**) land they had dreamt of, Treasure (twelve, needed, **Island**). Treasure Island was rumored to have (thirty, **dozens**, shore) of pirate treasure chests buried beneath (fly, too, **its**) sandy beaches for all to find (be, **or**, no) to die trying. The captain of (kept, **this**, down) ship was determined to find treasure, (**even**, feet, flew) if it meant death.

As the (surface, below, **pirate**) ship entered a hidden bay, the (after, shoes, **heavy**) sea subsided. The ship's captain, Brutus (Samantha, **Johnson**, pirate), ordered the anchor to be dropped (low, **and**, lay) the pirates to paddle the long (blood, **boats**, store) to the island shore. The boats (**were**, this, came) lowered and the pirates descended on (desire, worms, **cargo**) nets. There was "Scurvy" Pete and "(can, **Peg**, wet)-leg" Thomas in the first boat (look, none, **with**) "Big John" Thumb and Mr. Chimney (reassure, **following**, anywhere) behind them in the second boat. "**(Tiny**, Made, Camp)" Kim, the scallywag, jumped aboard another (never, **skiff**, lurk) with the captain and "Cabin Boy" (top, **Bob**, son) as the group of pirates set (all, air, **off**) in search of the island's treasure.

(Dug, Buy, **The**) three boats were quickly rowed to (**shore**, slide, muddy). After they pulled their boats up (to, is, **on**) the sandy beach, Captain Johnson located (pay, dog, **his**) treasure map and studied the map (see, **and**, now) the island's landscape. "It says here (told, lazy, **that**) we must take thirty paces to (**the**, for, den) North from Friar Rock."

The pirates (sucker, steamy, **walked**) for hours and finally found a (water, **large**, story) rock that resembled a man wearing (in, so, **a**) robe. From the North side of (oar, **the**, can) giant rock, they paced off thirty (flown, **steps**, above) and reached a crooked, dead tree. (Rails, **Cabin**, Frog) Boy Bob looked at the map. "(Plow, Near, **This**) must be Deadman's Tree. The map (plus, came, **says**) to climb the tree and look (**to**, at, be) the West."

"Climb the tree and (went, **tell**, near) us what you see, Tiny Kim," (fire, crew, **said**) Scurvy Pete.

"I don't see anything (saw, **but**, from) a cone-shaped mountain," Tiny Kim (parents, original, **reported**) from the tree's highest branch.

"The (finding, crooked, **volcano**), we found it! That's what we've (look, **been**, step) searching for," the captain responded excitedly.

(Wide, Call, **Once**) inside the extinct volcano, the pirates (catapult, **followed**, immediate) the map and led themselves through (do, up, **a**) dark tunnel to a large cave. (**Lining**, Canoe, Either) the sides of the cave, the (refused, children, **pirates**) found several old trunks with heavy (maybe, second, **locks**) keeping them closed. With the report (check, **from**, high) a pistol echoing, a lock was (line, **shot**, inch) off one of the trunks, and (**the**, was, air) lid was

Answer Key

lifted. Inside the trunk, (all, **the**, new) pirates found thousands of shiny, gold (disconnect, frantically, **medallions**).

"Yes," said Captain Johnson, "the life (go, **of**, by) a pirate has paid off for (as, or, **me**)!"

With a crossbones and skull flag flying high through the air, a group of daring pirates navigated their ship through the stormy sea towards a distant island. Through the mist before them lay **(was, how, the)** land they had dreamt of, Treasure **(twelve, needed, Island)**. Treasure Island was rumored to have **(thirty, dozens, shore)** of pirate treasure chests buried beneath **(fly, too, its)** sandy beaches for all to find **(be, or, no)** to die trying. The captain of **(kept, this, down)** ship was determined to find treasure, **(even, feet, flew)** if it meant death.

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"Yes," said Captain Johnson, "the life **(go, of, by)** a pirate has paid off for **(as, or, me)!**"